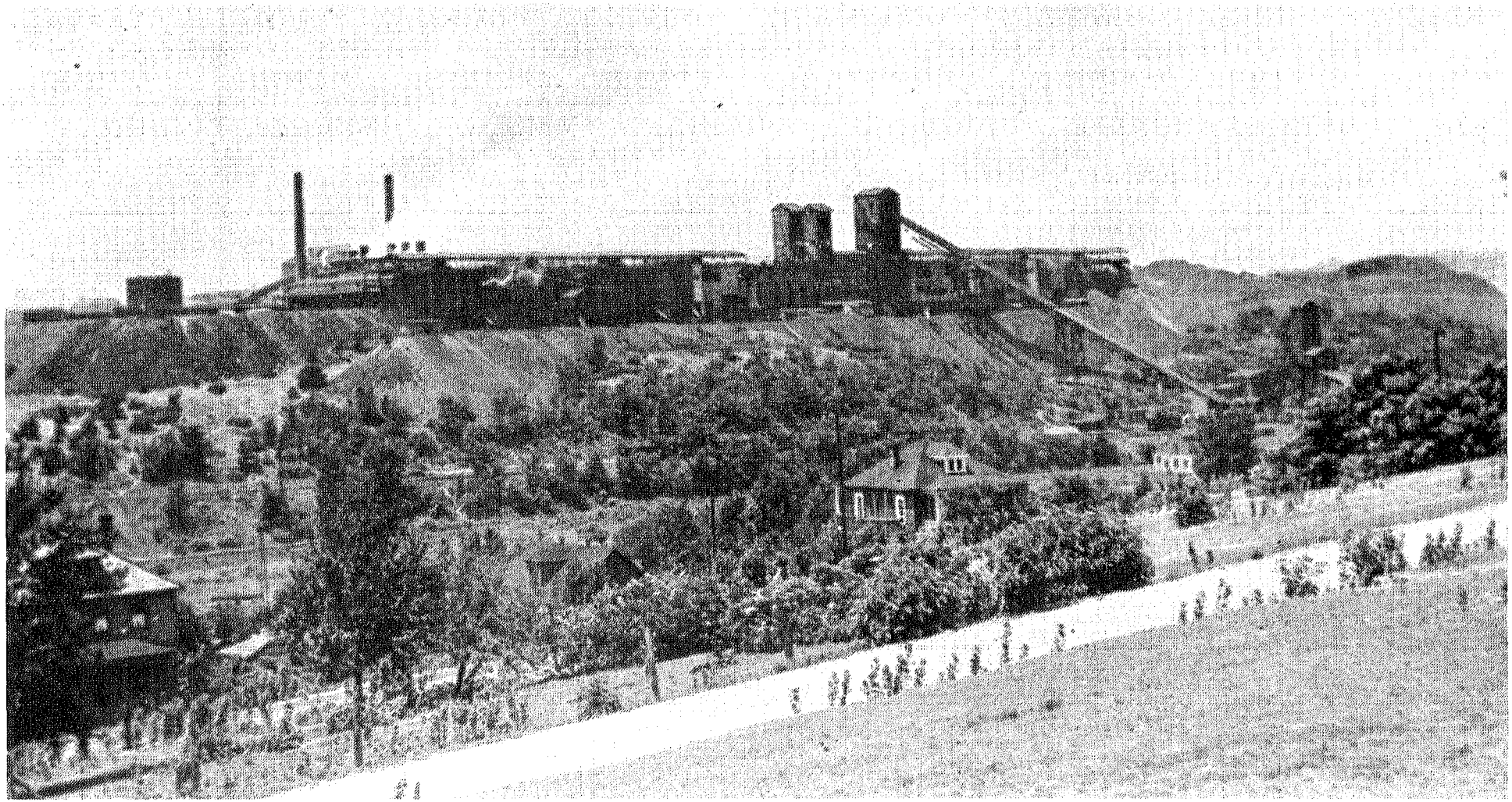
American Zinc

A Collection of
Articles and Photographs

Fort Vance Historical Society



American Zinc-1945
View from Slovan, PA

9-24-1946

JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT

WORK RESUMED ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, AT THE LANGELOTH PLANT FOLLOWING SETTLEMENT OF OUR THREE - MONTHS STRIKE. THE COMPANY HAS GRANTED AN ADDITIONAL TWO AND ONE - HALF CENTS PER HOUR ON ALL HOURLY RATES AND THE UNION HAS AGREED TO ADD AN ARBITRATION CLAUSE TO THE CURRENT LABOR CONTRACT. THE SETTLEMENT PROVIDES THAT MINOR REMAINING STRIKE ISSUES BE ARBITRATED BUT IT IS PROBABLE THAT THEY WILL BE COMPROMISED BEFOREHAND.

WE CONFIDENTLY EXPECT THAT WE WILL BE ABLE IN THE FUTURE TO AVOID THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS ON BOTH SIDES THAT RESULTED IN THE STRIKE AND TO MAKE THE PLANT A CONTINUING ASSET TO OURSELVES AND THE COMMUNITY.

BY

R. H. MEISENHELDER
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

American Zinc & Chemical Company

BY

M. NUNEZ
PRESIDENT

Langeloth Smeltermen's Union No. 95

Joint Announcement

Burgettstown Enterprise-September 26, 1946 Edition

American Zinc-April 18, 1946

Enos Smith, Alune Heist-nurse, Junius Parham-office staff.

Fort Vance Historical Society

American Zinc-April 18, 1946

Pauline Trinone, Kathryn Riddle,
Mrytle Reed, Juliette Medved and Athena Gargonis.

Fort Vance Historical Society

CAESAR PRADO — Spaniards in Langeloth

Prado worked in the zinc plant from 1929 until a few months before it closed in 1947. In an interview at his home in 1981, we asked him about his family background.

I was born here in this country, but my people came from Spain.

What happened is quite a story....

There was a zinc factory in northern Spain, and they went on strike. Of course, at that time you didn't talk about unionism in Spain. But, on their own, the men struck the damn plant. So they fired them all.

There was an English engineer who was in Spain, helping to take some of the bugs out of this plant, and he got to know some of the workers there. That engineer then came here to this country and helped put up a plant out west, near St. Louis somewhere, and he started looking for workers.

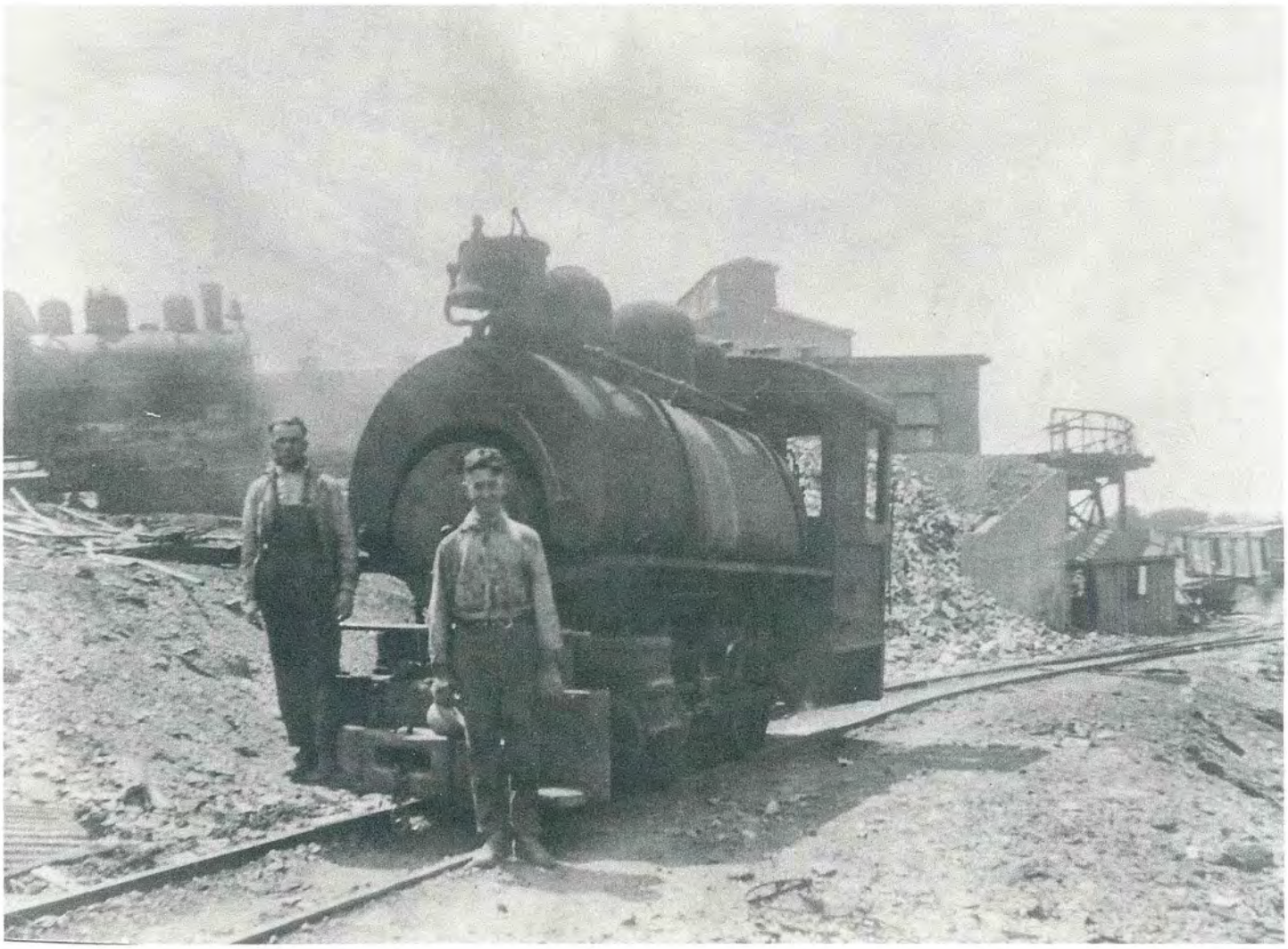
Now after those guys in Spain got fired, most of them went to Cuba to make their fortunes — it's a Spanish-speaking country. So this engineer went to Cuba and spotted them on the street, and after helloes, told them, "Hey, I'm down here looking for workers. You guys out of work?" He paid their fares to go to America, out west there.

So afterwards, after they got out there, they sent to Spain for more of their friends. That's how they all came. They put all these Spaniards on one furnace, and knowing the work the way they did, why naturally they outproduced the others.

Then they started drifting off. That's how we came here — we heard that Langeloth was opening up a zinc works.

The Spaniards more or less stayed together — they couldn't speak American. My mother couldn't say hello in American 10 years after she got here. She had been left a widow in East St. Louis, with three children. My oldest brother was 5 years old; I was 3; and my youngest brother was 18 months.

So that's when we came here. That was back in 1915 — I was born in 1912. So the plant must have opened in about 1914. We heard about it by word of mouth.



American Zinc and Chemical Company
L-R: Unknown and Charles A. Mader

A. Z. & C. CO. CONTRACTS FOR COMPLETE MEDICAL SERVICE FOR EIGHT HUNDRED EMPLOYES

The American Zinc and Chemical Company has entered into a contract with the Medical Service Association of Pennsylvania for a complete medical service plan for it's eight hundred employes, absolutely free, and for members of employes' families at minimum cost. The plan renders hospitalization and surgical care for subscribers.

Fred H. Illig, General Superintendent of the Company made announcemet of the plan this week, stating that it became effective on Tuesday, March 1. Mr. Illig has been working with company officials and officers of the Smeltermen's Union for several weeks to accomplish requested provisions of the 1944 wage and hour agreement.

A second provision of the 1944 agreement has been granted, increasing vacation for employes. This provision, approved by the War Labor Board increases paid vacations from 5 to 6 days for employes of 1 to 5 years service and from 10 to 11 days for employes with 5 or more years of service.

A third provision, the request for a co-operative buying plan, company sponsored, whereby members of the Union hope to reduce living costs of employes is being worked out with Gus Barbush, manager of Langeloth Market.

The Medical Service Plan will provide the following benefits for Zinc employes and their families: Semi-private or ward accomodations, surgical services, including all operative procedures for the treatment of deseases and injuries; maternity services including medical or surgical care of the mother and infant in the hospital for a period not to exceed 21 days; treatment of fractures and dislocations.

All employes will have the benefit of the service absolutely free, the Company paying $1.25 per month per man for the service. A wife may subscribe to the service for a cost of $1.50 per month and a wife and children (up to nine children) will be included for a cost of $2.75 per month.

This medical service will supplement and complete first aid service already available to Zinc employes. Company first aid service was expanded this year with the employment of a full time registered nurse to render aid at plant emergencies.

This service, at a cost of more than $1000 a month, is being offered by the Company as a health measure for it's employes in an effort to reduce absenteeism and increase all-out production for the successful prosecution of the War Effort.

———V———

American Zinc Contracts for Complete Medical Service for 800 Employees
Burgettstown Enterprise-March 2, 1944 Edition

ZINC PLANT DISMISSES 100 MEN ON JULY 1 AS PLANS GET UNDERWAY TO CLOSE OPERATIONS AND DISMANTLE THE PLANT. POTTERY MEN GO FIRST.

R. H. Meisenhelder, General Superintendent of the American Zinc and Chemical Company announced today that 100 men were dropped from the company's payrolls on July 1st in the first move to curtail operation at the hilltop plant, following a "closing order" reported in the Enterprise Extra last Thursday.

Dismissal begins in the pottery where retorts are made. The Superintendent stated that about two months' supply of retorts are on hand, which will mean about two months' operation at the plant, after which dismantling will begin, if, the intention of the Company, as announced last Thursday is followed through.

On Monday morning, members of the negotiating committee of Smeltermen's Union No. 95 met with officials of the company and extended the present wage agreement and contract until December 31, 1947. The extended contract was signed by R. H. Meisenhelder for the company and by the following union members: Charles Abate, President; Thomas Schilinski, George Yaksic, Joseph Plate, Albert Sella, Joseph Montequin, D. F. Malone, and George Nicksick.

The contract remains in effect the same with the following exceptions:

The American Zinc and Chemical Company will assume the entire cost of surgical and hospital service for employes and their immediate families for the duration of employment.

Vacations for employes of two years or less than three years' seniority are extended to 7 days, over 6 1-2 days. For employes from 3 to 5 years to 9 days over 6 1-2 days.

Shift differentials change from 4 to 6 cents an hour and from 5 to 10c an hour.

Severance pay for employes as they are dismissed is being worked in accordance with the schedule published in last Thursday's extra.

Members of the negotiating committee in company with Mr. Meisenhelder, Charles Mester, Plant Superintendent and Donald Hershey Personell director flew to New York City on Monday evening and met with Ben Zimmer, President on Tuesday. The Assembly met in special session last Friday night, on the heels of the closing order and in a last minute tried to work out a plan whereby the plant could be saved. The meeting of the committee with Mr. Zimmer was arranged as a result.

Zinc Plant Dismisses 100 Men on July 1 as Plans get Underway to Close Operations and Dismantle the Plant. Pottery Men go First.
Burgettstown Enterprise-July 3, 1947 Edition

DRY RESERVOIR
REDUCES OPERATION
AT LANGELOTH PLANT

For the first time in a great many years, operations at the American Zinc and Chemidal Company, particularly in the furnace departments were almost at a standstill because of the drought. The company's reservoir, which services the plant was empty and hundreds of fish died before the week-end rains came. The plant however, was able to resume full schedule after an auxiliary pipe line was run from the Climax reservoir, which is serviced by West Penn Water company.

The week-end rains filled the Avella reservoir which was also dry and caused great hardship to residents in that district because of lack of water. Water was trucked in from Washington. Avella schools resumed on Monday after being closed for one week because of the water shortage.

—V—

American Zinc-Dry Reservoir
Burgettstown Enterprise-September 13, 1945 Edition

ZINC EMLPOYEES GET PAY RAISE

Eight hundred and fifty employees at the American Zinc and Chemical Company plant at Langeloth have cause for rejoicing this week. Retroactive as of the fifteenth of October, they will receive a pay increase of 75 cents per day. The new scale makes the basic pay rate at the plant, $8.50 per day.

American Zinc Employees Get Pay Raise
Burgettstown Enterprise-October 23, 1941 Edition

American Zinc Employees Hold First Reunion

Plans Made For Event Next Year

The first reunion of the Gas producer department of the American Zinc and Chemical Company, which shut down operations in 1947, was held at the Bur-Lang Fishing Club Lodge on Saturday, August 20.

Pictured above is a representative group of those attending.

First row, left to right, Peppino Cullari, Sam Visnich, Dushan Nicksick, Steve Vuksanovich, Ruff DeSantis and Carl Latella. Second row, Steve Kover, Goose Laurich, Saggy Golubofsky, Angelo Strapazzon and John Baronick. Third row, Deb Malone, Rudy Tepsic, Art Florio, Nick Mervosh and Anthony Dvorsak.

The group, some in attendance not in the picture, decided to make this an annual event. Groundwork was laid for the 20th anniversary of the plant closing, to be held next year and featuring a barbecue for all former employees of the American Zinc and Chemical Company.

Burgettstown Enterprise
1966

ZINC PLANT EMPLOYS FULL-TIME NURSE

For the first time in nearly 25 years American Zinc and Chemical company employes will have the benefit of a complete nursing service. Miss Aleene Heist of Butler, Pa., has been employed by the Company to render nurse service to employes of the Company and reported for duty on Monday Jan. 10. Miss Heist is a graduate of Butler High school and of the Presbyterian Hospital, Pittsburgh, with the class of 1935. She has previously been employed at private duty nursing.

American Zinc Employs Full-Time Nurse
Burgettstown Enterprise-January 13, 1944 Edition

American Zinc-Langeloth, PA

LANGELOTH ZINC STRIKE ENDS. MEN GIVEN 2½c WAGE RAISE, TO FIRE FURNACES IN 10 DAYS

Members of the Langeloth Smeltermen's Union No. 95 at a special meeting in Illig Memorial Hall on Sunday afternoon, September 22 voted to return to work at the American Zinc and Chemical Company plant and to accept a wage increase of 2½ cents per hour. Thus ended a 108 day work stoppage at the hill plant that it is estimated cost 300 employes more than 700 dollars each in lost wages. Loss in payroll to the Greater Burgettstown Community is said to be more than one-half million dollars. It is estimated that the company will have to spend a half million dollars to re-condition the plant for operation, as there has been no maintenance since the fires were drawn on Friday, June 7.

The striking employees appear to be the greatest losers by the strike, since their payroll loss was not nearly offset by the $20 unemployment compensation which they received for a period of about 6 weeks. It is estimated that the 2½c an hour gained, amounting to about 20c a day, cannot be absorbed by their pay checks under a period of about 120 months or 10 years.

As noted in an official statement released today, jointly by the Company and the Union, other matters at issue in the strike will be referred to arbitration.

When the strike was called the following points were in dispute-

1. A wage increase of 18½ cents per hour as of May 16, 1946.
2. An additional ½ man per furnace.
3. One additional man in the spelter crew.
4. An opportunity to talk about additional help for metal drawers when the increased work load makes it necessary.
5. Accusations that the Company refuses to bargain collectively.
6. Alleged efforts on the part of foremen to "undermine" the Union.
7. Alleged numerous violations of the contract by the Company by failing to maintain "the same working conditions and provisions as at present."
8. Payment of iron workers' rates to maintance men when they do that type of work—the acid tanks in particular.

The 2½c wage increase granted, brings the total increase to 18½c an hour, this year, since a 16 cent raise was granted October 1945 re-troactive to August

This maintains the daily basic wage of the hilltop workers at a higher average than any other zinc plant in the United States, with the exception of the Donara zinc plant, a subsidiary of United States Steel.

R. H. Meisenhelder, General Superintendent stated today that he believes the hilltop plant can be readied for partial operation this week and that some of the furnaces will be fired within 10 days. Shortage of materials will somewhat hinder the re-conditioning operations and the scarcity of bricklayers is another obstacle to early operation. About 175 men were recalled to work last Monday but within 6 to 8 weeks it is believed that 24 hour operation can be resumed with a full quota of employees.

The fact that there exists today a 40,000 ton deficit in zinc production augurs well for full production at the hilltop plant. Another favorable sign for full production is the reserve metals stockpile for which the United States Government has earmarked more than one hundred billion dollars. Zinc is included in this reserve.

Manuel Nunez, machine shop employe and President of the Smeltermen's Union is in accord with Mr. Meisenhelder and Mr. Hershey that the remaining matters at issue other than the pay increase, can be satisfactorily settled by arbitration and that the hilltop plant can be operated at a profit both to the men and the company. Company officials have indicated a willingness to make broad allowances for the rent, insurance, and medical care indebtedness that has accumulated during the strike.

Settlement of the strike followed a meeting held in Washington, D. C. on Wednesday, September 18. This conference arranged by the Concilation Service of the United States Department of Labor was attended by:

R. H. Meisenhelder, General Superintendent of the A. Z. & C. Co., D. G. Hershey, labor relations director; Atty. Charles Hamilton, Jr., a member of the firm of Sullivan & Cromwell of New York City, counsel for the American Metals Co., and

Ronald Haughton, chairman of a 3 man panel of the United States Concilation Service, who had participated in previous negotiations held in Pittsburgh, also Judge Bell, a U. S. Attorney and

C. M. Marino, chairman of the strike committee, representing Union No. 95 and 10 members of the grievance and strike committee of the Langeloth Union. Mr. Marino and other members of the union had previously attended a convention of the International Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers in Cleveland, O. and

Messrs. Clott and Walkenshaw, Washington representatives of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers' Union C. I. O.

Langeloth Zinc Strike Ends. Men Given 2 ½ Cent Wage Raise To Fire Furnace in 10 Days

Burgettstown Enterprise-September 26, 1946 Edition

To: Clara Filipponi

AMERICAN ZINC & CHEMICAL COMPANY

61 Broadway, New York

BNZ:IH

Works at Langeloth, Pa.

June 24, 1947

To the Salaried Employees of the
American Zinc & Chemical Company,
Langeloth, Pa.

Gentlemen:

You have been advised frequently over the last few years by both the local management and the writer that the operations of our Langeloth plant were on a precarious basis and that we could not guarantee a continuation for any definite period.

The Board of Directors of the Company has again reviewed the situation from every possible angle and has come to the conclusion that conditions force us to shut down our operations after working up present available supplies.

We shall, of course, aim to bring about this shutdown with the least possible hardship to our employees and arrangements will be made with all the members of the salaried staff for severance pay on basis of individual services rendered, once the operations cease.

The Company deeply regrets that this step has become necessary but under the circumstances confronting it there is no choice.

Yours very truly,

AMERICAN ZINC & CHEMICAL COMPANY

President

ZINC COMPANY LIBERALIZES GROUP INSURANCE PLAN

An improved plan for insurance protection and disability benefits was put into effect at the American Zinc and Chemical Company this month, a program in which 90 percent of the employes agreed to participate.

The plan, arranged by the Metropolitan Life Insurance company will provide greatly increased protection for both hour men and salary workers. The old plan had permitted life insurance coverage in the amount of $1000 to hour workers, while the new liberal plan will give hour workers insurance coverage on a graduated and sliding scale with cost dependent upon incomes, and half the cost paid by the Company.

Lowest hour workers at the plant, up to $1.08 per hour will be permitted to take policies up to $4000 life insurance with $21 weekly disability payments for 13 weeks in any one year. This will cost the worker 73c a week with the company paying a like sum.

Hour men from $1.08 to $1.32 per hour, may take $5000 policy with $26.25 weekly disability benefits at a cost of 91c a week.

Hour men $1.32 to $1.56 may buy $6000 policies with $31.50 weekly disability benefits at a cost of $1.09 per week.

Men from $1.56 to $1.80 are eligible for $7000 policy with $36.75 weekly disability benefits to cost $1.27 per week.

Salary men will participate in the program on a similar scale. Men participating in the program do not have to take physical examinations and are covered by the insurance for a period of 30 days after termination of their employment with the Zinc company. They can convert to commercial insurance after employment has ceased if they so desire without physical examination.

Zinc Company Liberalizes Group Insurance Plan
Burgettstown Enterprise-January 23, 1947 Edition

Local Industrialists Meet To Study Safety Methods

Representatives of Leading Industries Have Fine Safety Program

More than 400 employees of the American Zinc and Chemical Co. and the Langeloth Coal Co. attended the safety rally in the Langeloth community church on April 8th. A. P. Huckenstein of Pittsburgh, Supervising Inspector of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, made the principal address. George E. Clarkson, manager of the Western Pennsylvania Safety Council also spoke. Comedy was supplied by Felix the Cat and Charlie Chaplin. A picture of the Langeloth school May day exercises was also presented by Mr. Warner. Langeloth Boy Scouts, under the direction of Scoutmaster Enos Smith and Special Instructor A. J. Nairn put on a very fine first aid demonstration. D. C. Wray presided.

Mr. Huckenstein stressed the tremendous progress that has been made in industrial safety in the past 15 years. In that time fatal accidents in the state have been reduced from 15 a day to six a day, he said, and other accidents have been reduced in almost the same proportion, from a thousand a day to 500 a day. "A program that can show such results," continued Mr. Huckestein, "cannot be called 'bunk'. Twenty years ago among structural iron workers it was known in advance that a 20-story building would claim 30 lives; that is, one and a half lives per story of height. To-day, the great Cathedral of Learning in Pittsburgh has bee completed without a single fatalit or in fact, without a single serio accident." Mr. Hucestein made a urgent plea for a fuller cooperation with the "Safety Program," directing attention to the fact that it is the "human element" that is responsible for the large number of accidents that continue to occur The three basic factors of safety, he stated, were cleanliness, orderliness, and light.

After the meeting sandwiches coffee and doughnuts were served to the men "on the company."

Local Industrialist Meet to Study Safety Methods
Burgettstown Enterprise-April 16, 1931 Edition

Form 78

CORRECTIONS MUST BE MADE BEFORE PAY DAY

Check No. 387

MR. Mike Wargo

IN ACCOUNT WITH

AMERICAN ZINC & CHEMICAL CO., COAL DEPT.

LANGELOTH, PA.

OCT 31 1917

FOR LABOR TO ..... PAY DAY

This statement is not transferable, and is subject at any and all times to any indebtedness of the person whose account is represented hereon, and must be presented duly signed and witnessed on the pay day shown above

CREDIT				$	
		Cwt. Coal	@		
		Yards Enrty	@		
		" Bone Coal	@		
		" Hole	@		
		Clay Veins	@		
		Spars	@		
	16	Thick Slate	@	10	00
	85	Days or Hours	@	38	25
		Total		48	25
DEBIT			$		
	Assignments				
	Smithing				
	Rent				
	Coal				
	Checkweighman				
	Brass Checks				
	Doctor		50		
	Union Dues		25		
	Electric Light—Mine		60	1	35
	Dynamite and Caps				
	Electric Light—House				
	A. & D. Fund				
	BALANCE			$	46 90

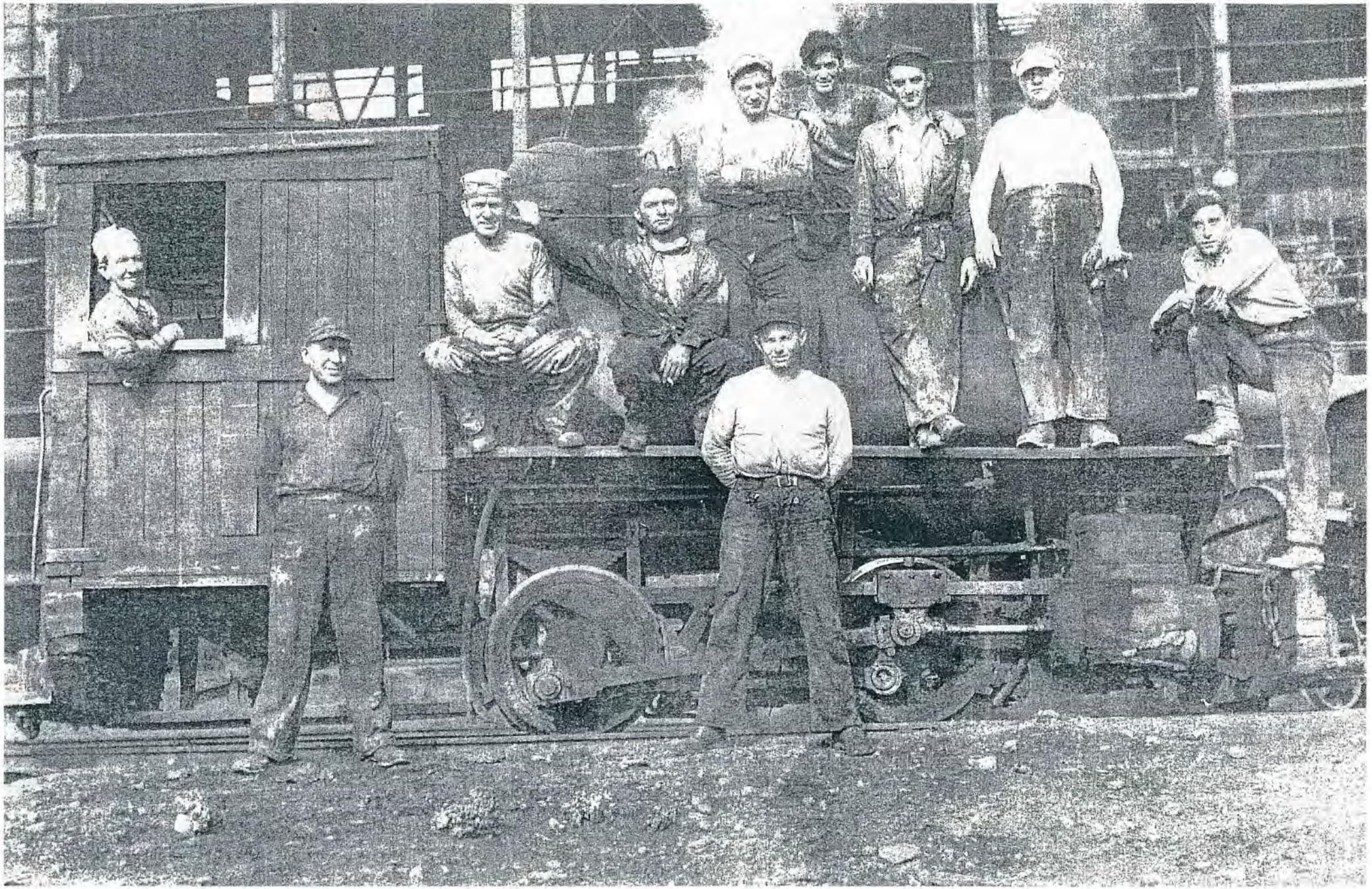
I have examined the above statement, approved the correctness thereof, authorized the deductions made thereon, and accept and acknowledge the receipt of the balance stated as full payment for all money due me to date noted.

(SIGNED) mike Wargo

DATE 1917

(WITNESS) .....

July 25, 1947



L-R: Ellas Mader, Kovich, Strappazon, Dvorsak, Martinez, Florio, Serrini and Abate
Standing on the ground: Putkovich and Bernola

Kneeling, L-R: LaVerne Wos, and Clara Filipponi Giacomelli.

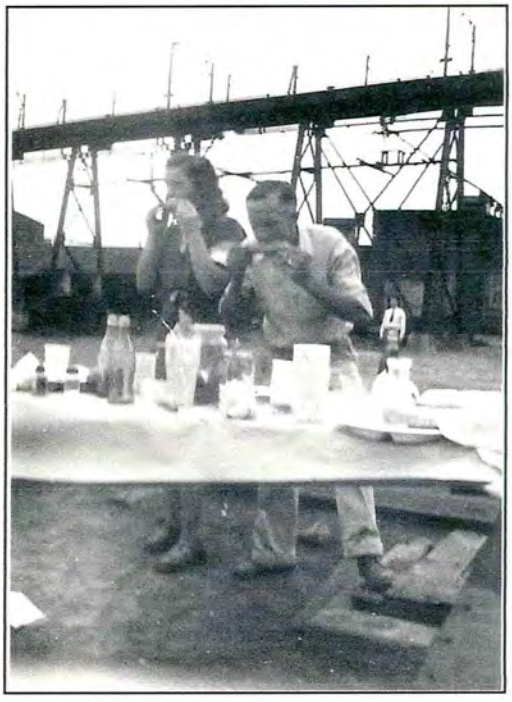
Standing, L-R: Juliette Medved, Mrytle Reed, Nora Moore, Robbie Wakefield Verdin, Pauline Trinone McClain, Betty Riddle, and Alune Heist.

American Zinc "Office Picnic"-August 22, 1946

Fort Vance Historical Society

LaVerne Wos, I.P. Lockert, and Betty Riddle

Gus Barbush, A.H. Kunkel, Robbie Retzer, and Myrtle Reed



Juliette Medved and Lee Foster

American Zinc "Office Picnic"-August 22, 1946

Fort Vance Historical Society

American Zinc-April 18, 1946

Enos Smith, Alune Heist-nurse, Junius Parham-office staff.

Fort Vance Historical Society

American Zinc-April 18, 1946

Pauline Trinone, Kathryn Riddle,
Mrytle Reed, Juliette Medved and Athena Gargonis.

Fort Vance Historical Society

The town mourns the death of an industry, Burgettstown, PA. The citizens of Burgettstown, 3,000 strong, couldn't believe their ears when they heard that the American Zinc and Chemical Co. was preparing to shut down the zinc plant at nearby Langeloth. The plant employed some 800 workers on a $9,000-a-day payroll. It had been in operation continuously for 34 years, and it is reported to have put out $8,000,000 worth of zinc and acid last year. It was the main source of income for the little "soft coal centers" but now, the plant is being abandoned. Only a skeleton crew of 100 remain to complete old contracts and dismantling. The people are saying that the parent organization, the American Smelting Co., tired of frequent labor difficulties. Some union members agree that they went too far in their demands. Others claim that the machinery is obsolete and would cost too much to recondition. They are blaming themselves and each other, but whatever the reason the plant is dead and the post-war bubble has burst.

858711.....New York Bureau

These two veteran employees had been with the plant since it started 34 years ago. They are (left to right) James C. Spanogians, 54, and Emanuil J. Parianes, 52. For them, the post-war boom is over.

NY-1-2-3 for MGS

Credit (Acme) 1/16/48 (MK)

THE CITIZENS OF BURGETTSTOWN
[illegible] STRONG, COULDN'T BELIEVE THEIR EARS WHEN
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858711.....NEW YORK BUREAU

THESE TWO VETERAN EMPLOYES HAD BEEN WITH
THE PLANT SINCE IT STARTED 34 YEARS AGO. THEY
ARE (LEFT TO RIGHT) JAMES C. SPANOGIANS, 54, AND
EMANUIL J. PARIANES, 52. FOR THEM, THE POST-WAR
BOOM IS OVER.

NY-1-2-3 FOR MGS.
CREDIT (ACME) 1/16/48

(MK)

American Zinc-Plant Closing Press Release
January 16, 1948

ZINC PLANT FIRES 7TH BLOCK. WILL HIRE 50 MORE MEN

Fred H. Illig, general superintendent of the American Zinc and Chemical Company, announced an additional expansion program at the Langeloth plant, which will get underway next week. Mr. Illig stated that the seventh block will be fired within a few days and will provide employment for an additional 50 or 60 men, bringing production at this plant up to one hundred per cent capacity. Mr. Illig noted that this will be the first time in twenty years that the Langeloth plant has operated at peak, and will employ more than 750 men. While the hill plant will be unable to roast enough ore for the seventh block, the officials have arranged to secure roasted ore from other Zinc plants.

American Zinc Plant Fires 7th Block, Will Hire 50 Men
Burgettstown Enterprise-January 30, 1941 Edition

ZINC PLANT FIRES FIFTH FURNACE RECALLS FIFTY MORE EMPLOYES

Superintendent Frederick H. Illig announces the lighting of fires under the fourth Roaster Kiln today in the American Zinc and Chemical Company's plant at Langeloth and the resumption of operation in another block of furnames. From forty to fifty former employes will be recalled to their jobs at the Zinc plant this week end, bringing production in the plant to above normal. Until the resumption of activity in the Fifth Furnace block, 490 men have been working steadily at the plant, and production has been normal.

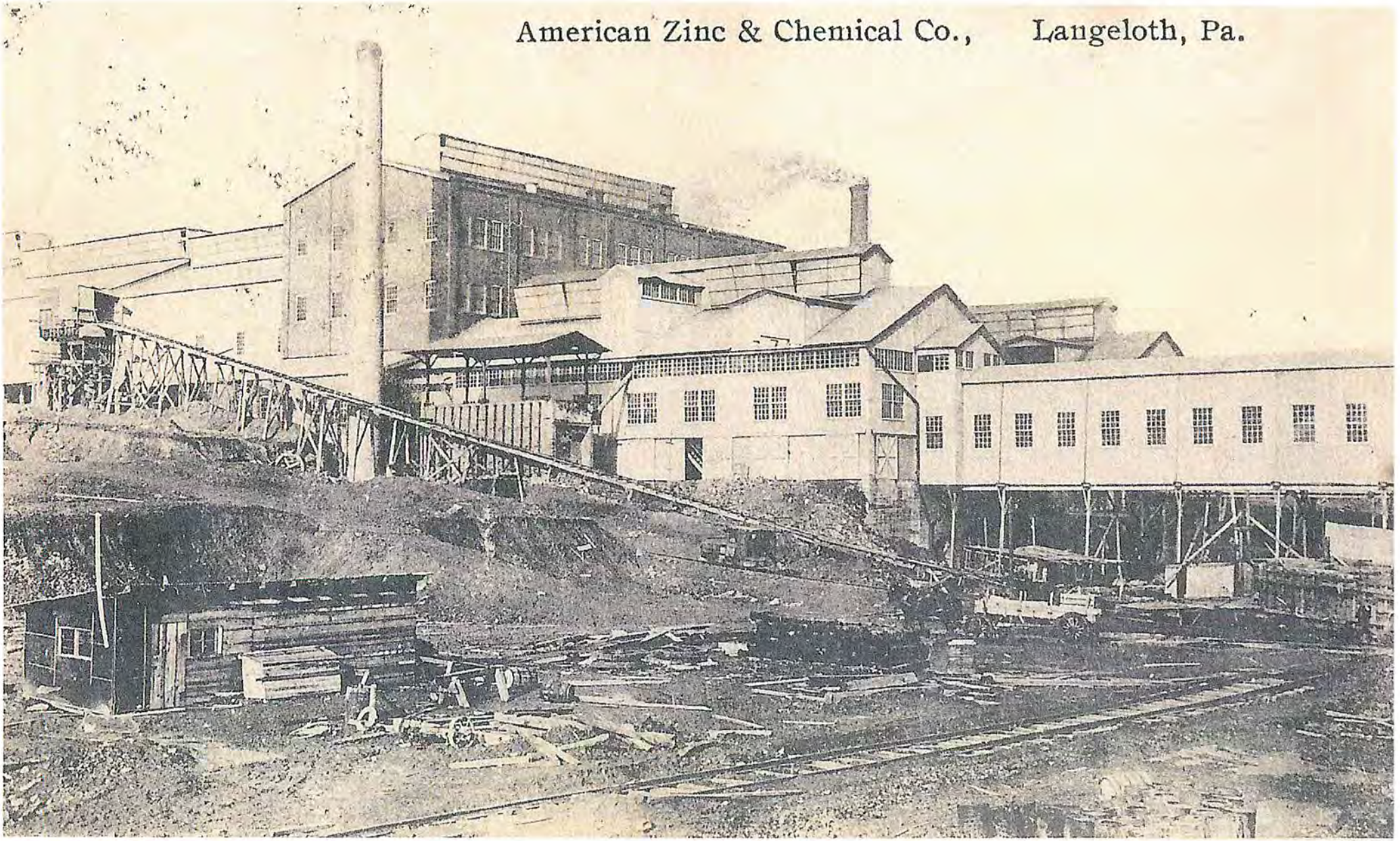
Increased rush orders was given as the reason for this action at the Plant, which Mr. Illig stated had not used all five furnaces since 1938. Early resumption of firing in the sixth and last block is to be expected, and when such a move occurs will bring activity at the plant to peak production.

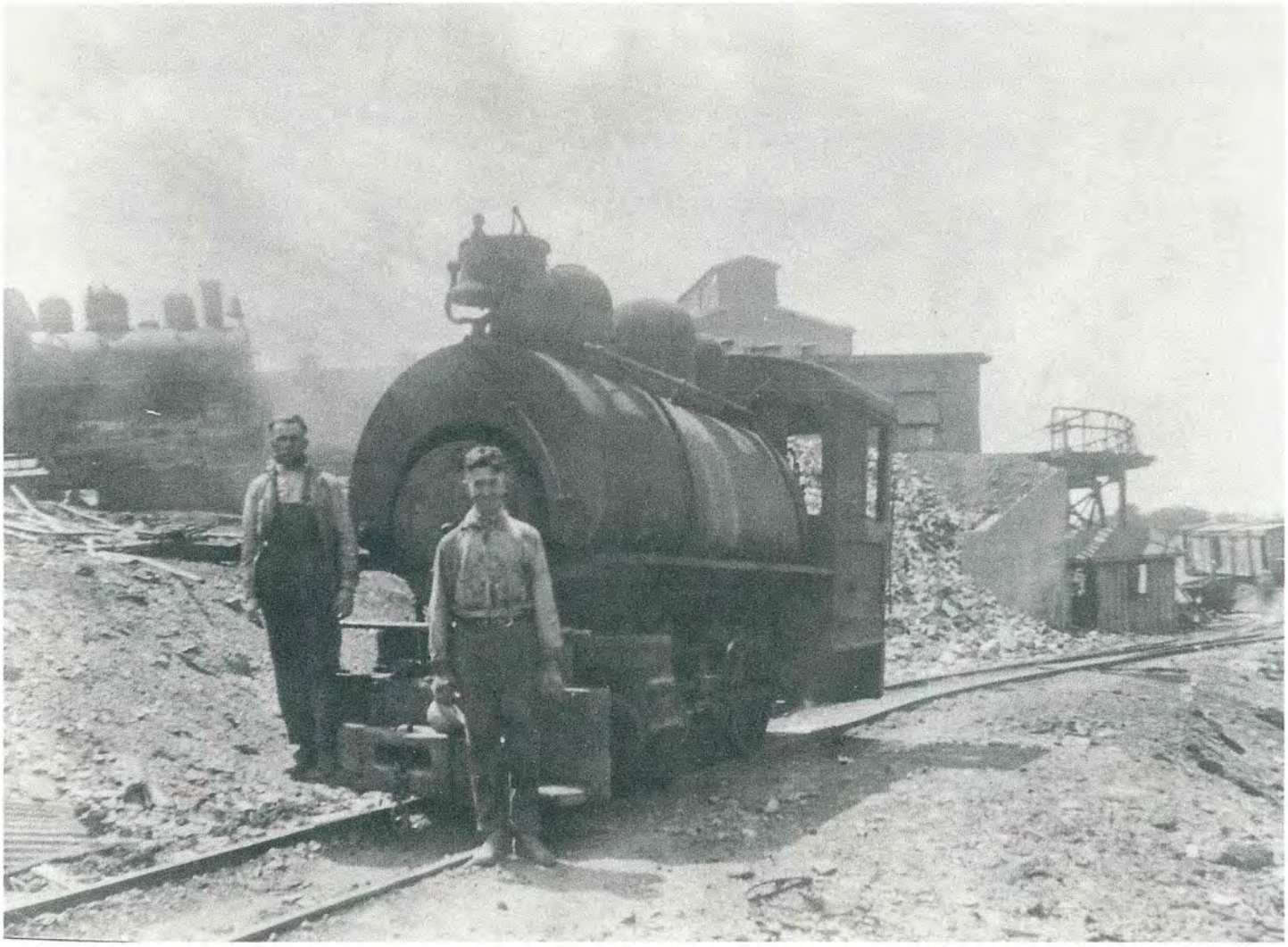
Climax Molybdenum Company was reported his week as hiring additional men to place in operation a second shift, in order to meet increased demands for Molybdenum.

Coal production in this section is reported to be picking up considerably. Harmon Creek Coal company reports that two shifts are now working full time at this shovel operation. Freight loadings on the Pennsylvania railroad from the Burgettstown district are reported to be steadily increasing.

Zinc Plant Fires Fifth Furnace

Burgettstown Enterprise-May 29, 1940 Edition


American Zinc & Chemical Co., Langeloth, Pa.



American Zinc and Chemical Company
L-R: Unknown and Charles A. Mader

IN the 1980s, plant closures are major news, but the story itself is not new. Out in the rural landscape of Western Pennsylvania, the remnants of many bygone industries tell tales of changed fortunes. For more than 15 years, we have been exploring these sites on foot, trying to understand the industrial culture created in the late nineteenth century, and ebbing now in the late twentieth.

We came upon Langeloth by surprise.

On a May afternoon, we parked our car in Burgettstown, 30 miles west of Pittsburgh, and started walking. Our immediate objective was a deserted mine site along the Conrail tracks a couple of miles west of town.

It was not pleasant walking. It was hot (October through April is the best season for hikers), and the railbed had been recently renewed with large-cut gravel — hard on the feet, even through vibram-soled boots. When we finally got there, we found that the mine site indicated on our topographic map was not only abandoned, it was obliterated. All that remained was a small brick building and a barren landscape recontoured by a bulldozer.

We swung up the hill, away from the tracks. On the other side, we found a huge pile of slate: the best visible evidence left of the mine we'd originally set out for. We circled the mound for a few minutes, taking pictures, then followed a country road for a mile or so, past farms and modest suburban homes, and climbed the hill into the little village of Langeloth.

So far the walk had been unspectacular and disappointing, though we paused to examine a deserted company store in Langeloth, and to admire, briefly, a modern hilltop plant that makes molybdenum, a metal used to harden steel.

From Langeloth, we headed down again, past a row of old-fashioned company houses (with the usual barrage of barking dogs) into the next hollow, where we knew there *had* to be an old mine. Still we couldn't find anything much — some coal dust and evidence of a few building foundations, but mostly weeds.

It was after we climbed the abutment of a railroad trestle and started east along the tracks that our "discovery" began.

The tracks were old but clearly still used occasionally. As we moved along, we could see a modern tipple and coal-sorter to our right: perhaps another small company processing the tailings of a mine. Up to our left were increasingly large slate dumps from an earlier operation.

We moved off the tracks and began to climb through the dumps. Gradually the panorama unfolded: first a set of concrete ruins, the foundations of a small building, then a series of concrete piers advancing up the hillside. Around us was a vast expanse of heaped slate, the remnants, we felt, of a large mining operation. The glare of the sun, now low on the horizon, made the piles incredibly black.

But we were still below the hillcrest. When we reached the top, we were on a plateau. The scene that stretched out before us, two dozen acres across, looked like a capital city devastated in some ancient war. Or was a more apt image a German industrial site, circa 1945?

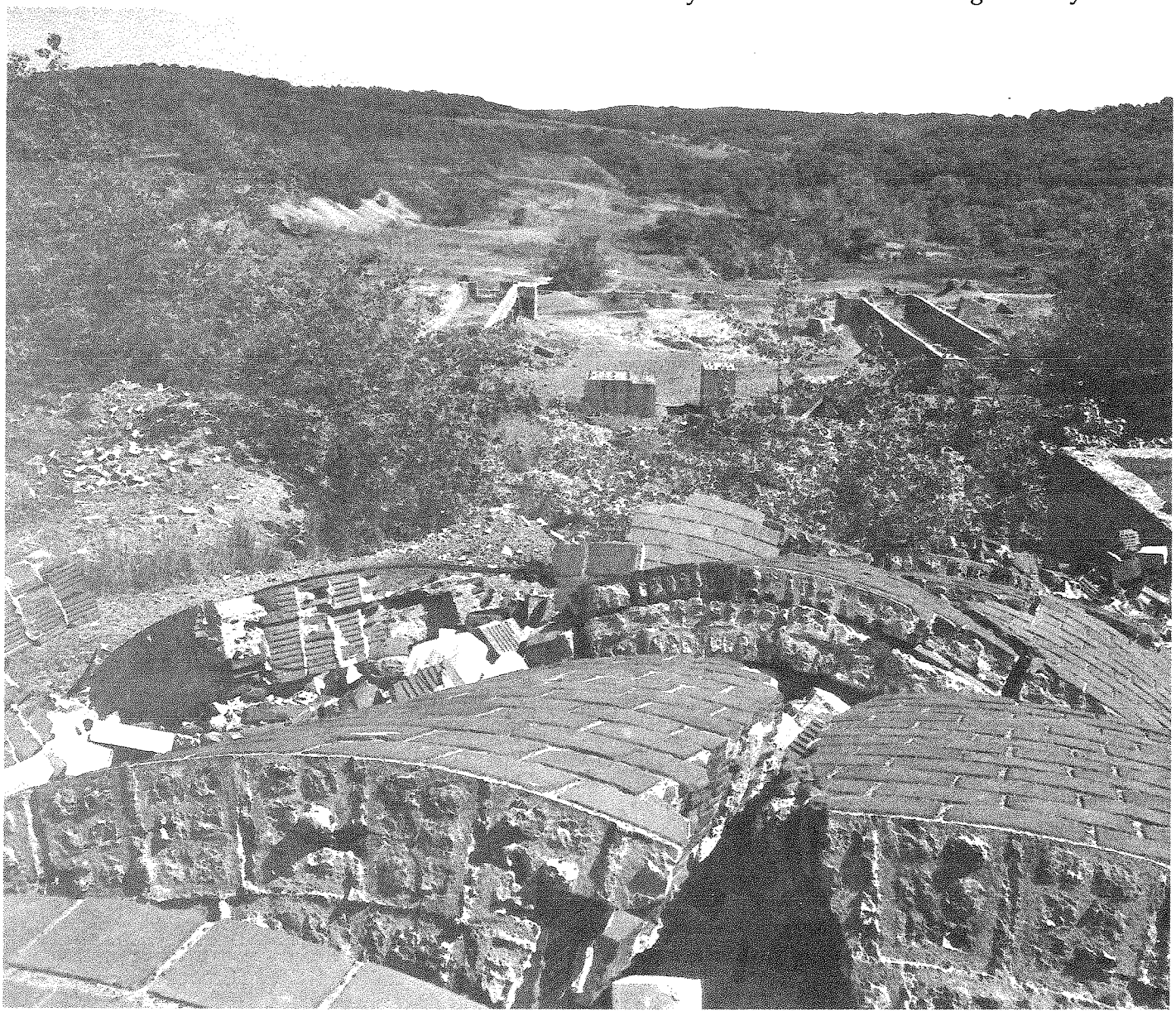
David Demarest and Eugene Levy teach in the English and history departments respectively at Carnegie Mellon University.

Remnants of an Industrial Landscape

By David Demarest and Eugene Levy

Pittsburgh History, A Magazine of the City and Its Region-Fall 1989

By David Demarest and Eugene Levy



Industrial Ruins, Langeloth, PA 1989

Strewn out ahead of us were house-sized chunks of concrete, mounds of brick and steel rails, steel beams tossed here and there. In a hillside to our left several tunnels, clogged with rubble, were dripping water. Two hundred yards straight ahead were the hulks of buildings: ragged roofs, broken windows, large saplings grown up through gaps in the walls.

Our assumption that this was a mine site quickly changed as we examined the rubble. The tunnels were too small and numerous to be mine entries. A series of large, rectangular concrete pits (now filled with water) evidently had been part of a yardrail system for unloading materials, but they had only slight resemblance to arrangements we'd seen at mines.

The most intriguing feature was a set of oven-like structures concentrated at the far side of the site, built into the rim of a man-made cliff. The ovens looked like broken towers. Circular window-like openings near their tops were ringed with decorative brick. Tunnel entries at their bases seemed designed, perhaps, for fuel. Around the ovens was debris of brick and broken ceramic materials glazed over from intense heat.

As we looked back across the bulldozed open stretches of the site (toward the towering smokestack of the modern molybdenum plant half a mile away), the desolation was complete — and, we could see, deliberate. Not only a bulldozer had done its work; dynamite had been applied to many of the structures. Three immense tanks sat smashed, like a row of hats hit on the crowns by a giant fist.

It was a weekday, during working hours, but no one was working here — not anymore.

The date we could find on ruined rail tracks, 1920, confirmed our sense that here was an industrial site that had had its heyday more than half a century ago. But what had it been?

We left the row of ovens and headed toward the town of Slovan in the hollow below, climbing through the rubble of huge concrete stanchions blasted down the hillside. At the foot of the hill we noted a small mine entry with "1914" pressed into the concrete above the portal. We crossed a right-of-way laid out for two sets of tracks. Rusted rails trailed off toward Burgettstown.

Later we learned that the industrial bones we had stumbled across that warm spring day in 1980 were the remains of a zinc plant which had prospered in its time, then ceased to be, quickly and finally. *Zinc* in Western Pennsylvania? Not steel, not coal?

As we began to investigate, it grew clear that the forces that brought this strange monument to zinc into being and caused its end were the same forces that produced similar histories elsewhere in Western Pennsylvania, and more broadly throughout industrial America.

THE NEW ZINC SMELTERY AT LANGELOTH

A new zinc-smelting works near Pittsburgh, Penn. is about to be put in operation. The plant is right over a coal mine which supplies the fuel. The gas producers, roasting furnaces and smelting furnaces are of the Hegeler type. The methods of handling materials in the works are chiefly mechanical. — *Engineering and Mining Journal*, Dec. 5, 1914

EXTRA —
ZINC PLANT TO CLOSE
STOP ORDER HERE TODAY
—*Burgettstown Enterprise*
June 26, 1947

The American Zinc and Chemical Co., a subsidiary of American Metal (now Amax), came into being in 1914 for several reasons. It was accessible to a prime

zinc market. Only 30 miles from Pittsburgh, the new plant was even closer to the steel mills of the Ohio River Valley, which would use its product to galvanize steel. Transportation was convenient. The main trunk of the Pennsylvania Railroad passed through Burgettstown, just two miles away, and spur lines could be extended around the plant site to bring zinc ore in from Missouri mines and carry off finished slabs.

Most important, beneath the leveled hilltops on which the plant was built lay large coal deposits, the famous Pittsburgh seam: cheap fuel for the retort furnaces. The Langeloth works honored a basic axiom of heavy industry: Get as close to the energy source as possible.

Finally, there was the region's cheap immigrant labor, mostly Eastern and Southern Europeans, though, for particular historic reasons, zinc smelting also attracted Spaniards. On an adjoining hillcrest, American Zinc would build "Langeloth," a company town (named after Jacob Langeloth, chairman of American Metal) to house its workers.

CAESAR PRADO — Spaniards in Langeloth

Prado worked in the zinc plant from 1929 until a few months before it closed in 1947. In an interview at his home in 1981, we asked him about his family background.

I was born here in this country, but my people came from Spain.

What happened is quite a story....

There was a zinc factory in northern Spain, and they went on strike. Of course, at that time you didn't talk about unionism in Spain. But, on their own, the men struck the damn plant. So they fired them all.

There was an English engineer who was in Spain, helping to take some of the bugs out of this plant, and he got to know some of the workers there. That engineer then came here to this country and helped put up a plant out west, near St. Louis somewhere, and he started looking for workers.

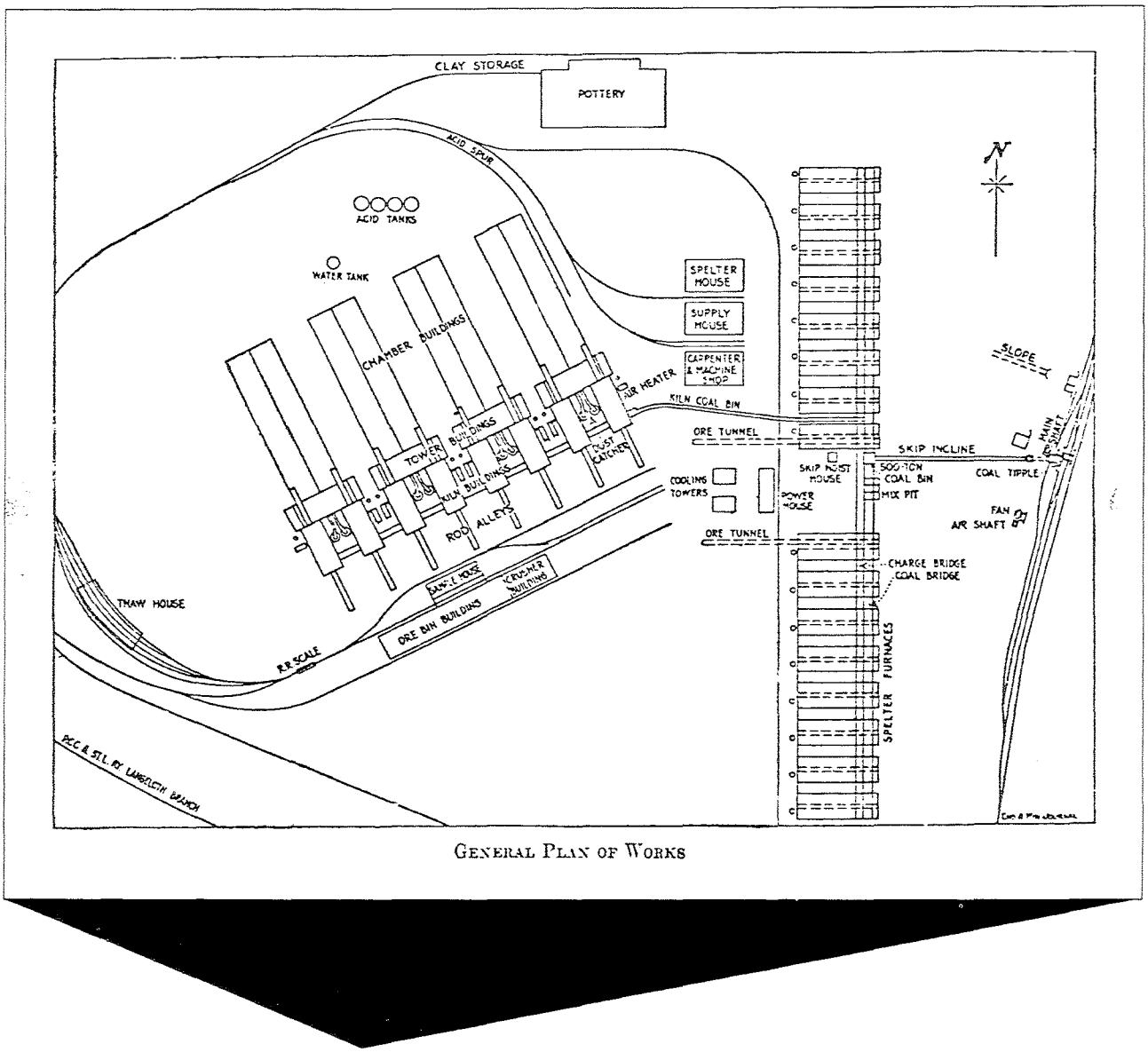
Now after those guys in Spain got fired, most of them went to Cuba to make their fortunes — it's a Spanish-speaking country. So this engineer went to Cuba and spotted them on the street, and after helloes, told them, "Hey, I'm down here looking for workers. You guys out of work?" He paid their fares to go to America, out west there.

So afterwards, after they got out there, they sent to Spain for more of their friends. That's how they all came. They put all these Spaniards on one furnace, and knowing the work the way they did, why naturally they outproduced the others.

Then they started drifting off. That's how we came here — we heard that Langeloth was opening up a zinc works.

The Spaniards more or less stayed together — they couldn't speak American. My mother couldn't say hello in American 10 years after she got here. She had been left a widow in East St. Louis, with three children. My oldest brother was 5 years old; I was 3; and my youngest brother was 18 months.

So that's when we came here. That was back in 1915 — I was born in 1912. So the plant must have opened in about 1914. We heard about it by word of mouth.



GENERAL PLAN OF WORKS

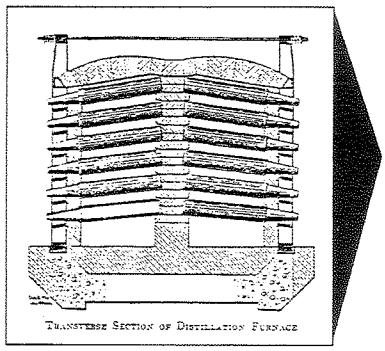
On our first visit, we had entered the plant site at its southwest corner. The plant's rail tracks seemed to begin where we were standing, and to move east. In fact, we were at the spot where zinc ore entered the site, shipped from the Midwest and later from South America via Baltimore. The roofs over the ore storage bins are now gone; some are filled with water; others are clogged by rubbish.

To extract the sulfur content, the ore was moved by conveyor belts across the plant yard to two roasting furnaces. Perhaps 70 feet high, these were composed of seven large hearths (each 6 feet by 80 feet) stacked one above the other. It was an "extraordinarily massive construction," according to a 1914 article in *Engineering and Mining Journal.*

Today, only the foundations, with their under-tunnels, exist. Imagining the massive roasters is an intellectual exercise. The three giant battered tanks we observed on our first visit were the sole remains of the operation that transformed the sulfur dioxide freed from the ore into sulfuric acid, the plant's most important by-product. Since the process used large lead-lined chambers, American Metal dismantled Langeloth's acid plant with particular thoroughness to salvage the lead. Today, even the tanks are gone, "victims" of soaring scrap prices.

The ore itself, reduced to zinc oxide, was moved from the roaster, by hopper

car, 100 yards farther east, then hoisted to a set of tracks that ran across the tops of Langeloth's eight distilling furnaces. For us, exploring the plant in the 1980s, it was this climactic step, the smelting itself, that most engaged us. Starting with our first visit we were intrigued by the architecture of the furnace area. The rubble of four wall-like structures stretches out from east to west, each about 90 feet long, about 100 feet between them. In the best preserved spots along the heat-scarred walls, the butt ends of large ceramic retorts are set on shelf-like ridges. The debris piled nearby is a blend of broken ceramics and hundreds of bricks, with a variety of names set in them, "St. Louis," "Laclede," "Phoenix."

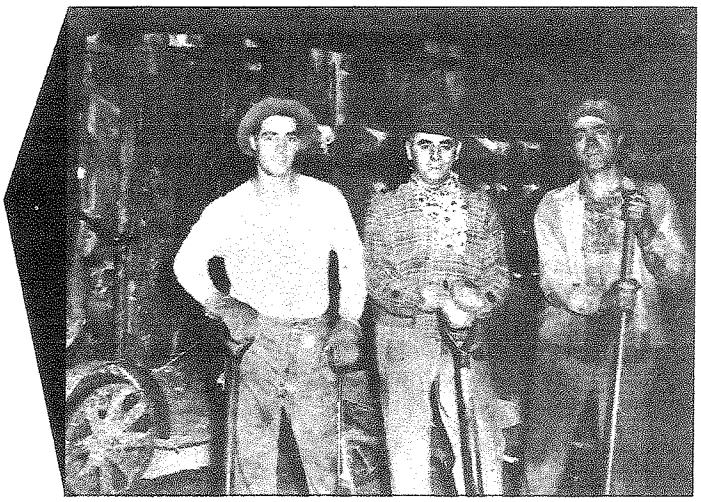


Transverse Section of Distillation Furnace

We learned that the charred walls were the center walls of the furnaces. Ceramic retorts, about 5 feet long and 8 inches in diameter, were anchored in rows to both sides of these walls, suspended horizontally in a slight down-tilt, and supported at their front ends by a brick facade, where a conical ceramic condenser was attached during the smelting. On each side of the center wall, the retorts, stacked several rows high, were enclosed at the top by an arched brick roof. In effect, the furnace was a long tunnel.

At Langeloth, the smelting furnaces were located at the hilltop edge nearest the coal mine in the hollow below. Hoisted on an incline several hundred feet long, the coal was converted into gas, combusted, and blown by fans down the length of the distilling furnaces. At either end of the units, tower-like structures (which we'd first thought of as ovens) were part of a continuous flue system that drove the ignited gas.

Much of the appeal of the site, for us, was aesthetic. We were struck by the beauty of the brick, whether strewn about in a rubble of many colors, or still set carefully in structures. Brick, an ancient building material, was the architectural staple of the industrial era. Brick is human sized, laid by individual workers. It suggests skill and craftsmanship. Even as we began to "read" the meaning of the furnace ruins, the statement made by the architecture stayed vividly in mind: Here was a technology intimately dependent on the activity of human workers.



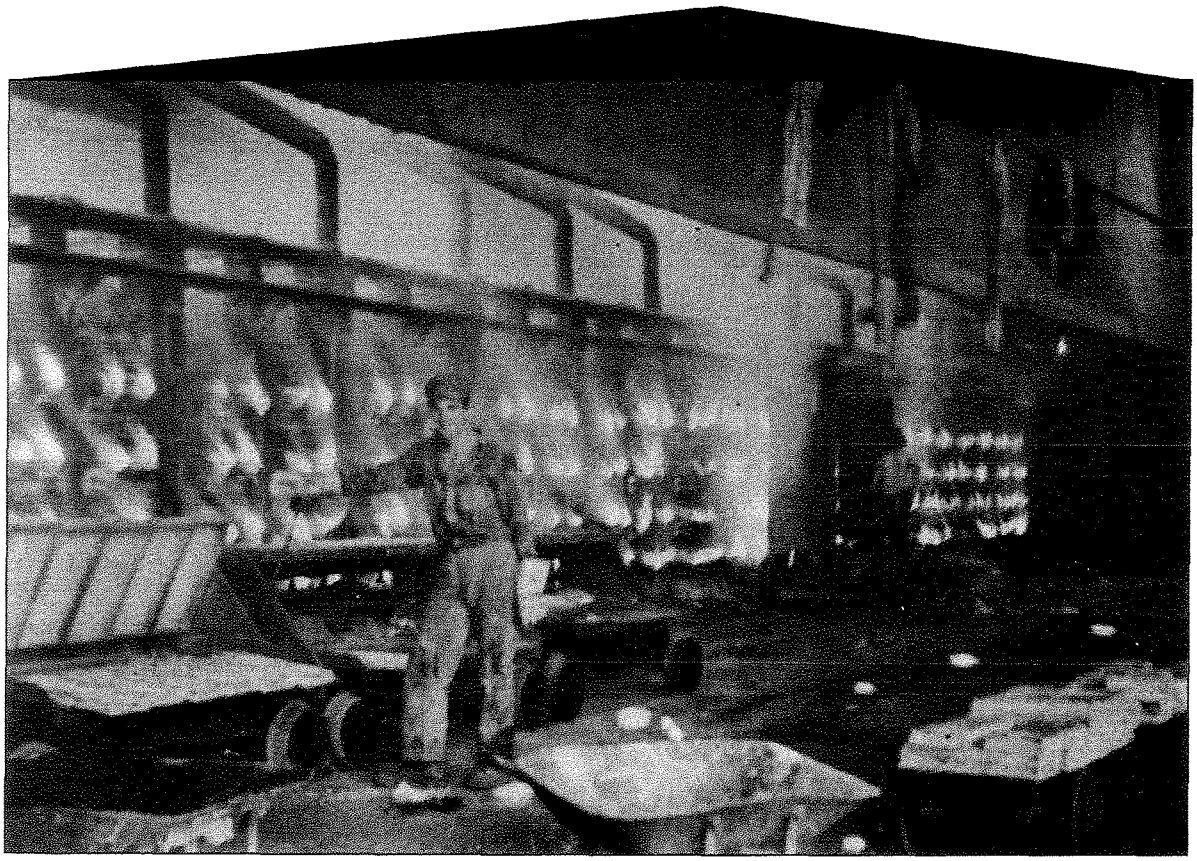
According to ex-workers we talked to, the dozen or so men per shift who ran each furnace moved the materials by hand; they monitored the process — the temperature level, the readiness of the zinc for drawing — by eyesight, from experience. The tools they used were startlingly simple, designed with long handles to let the men stand back a few feet from the intense heat. Tools had graphic names: "charging scoop," "blow out hose," "connie boy's bumper."

The work was heavy, hot and dirty, potentially dangerous. Emissions of sulfur and particulate made it, to some unmeasured degree, unhealthy. The zinc plant in Donora, some 40 miles away, built in 1916 and dismantled in the early 1960s, used the same technology as Langeloth and was a notorious polluter, but it was located in a river valley. Langeloth's hilltop site, open to the winds, may have helped, though nearby slopes still show the scars of chemical fallout.

Caesar Prado, a young man when he worked on the furnaces, recalled his rapid heartbeat and the heaviness of his lungs at the end of the shift. He also

remembered running the half mile home from work, and feeling fine by the time he got there.

As the workers sweated through their clothes, they took off their shirts and hung them on pipes in the furnace shed. Prado told us that in hot weather, when they were finished for the day, the men would strip naked before walking across the plant yard to the shower building.



CAESAR PRADO AND JOE ABATE — "The beautiful part about the work up there..."

Abate worked in the zinc plant from the early 1930s to its closing. Prado was an officer of the local union until the final months.

Prado: The beautiful part about the work up there — those were the "good *young* days" for us — was that you had to be there at 4 o'clock....

Abate: That's 4 o'clock in the morning — right after midnight: *that* 4 o'clock!

Prado: Right, because that's when it was cool. Those furnaces were one solid damn wall of red hot fire. Five minutes after you started work, water was squishing in your shoes. You were soaked (that kept you from burning up too, which was good). The whistle would blow at 5, and we'd get the furnace ready to draw — tear it down, clean it out, and charge it back up. We'd do that in three and a half hours, and then we'd go home. So in effect we got paid for eight hours of work, and we worked maybe four hours. That wasn't simply because the workers wanted it that way. It benefited the company. It gave them a longer smelting period. It was a 24-hour schedule, and if we took eight hours to charge the furnaces, let's face it, they'd have only 16 hours to smelt that ore. They'd have to burn a helluva a lot of it, instead of taking it easy, cooking it. So it actually benefited them to have us finish in four hours: they'd have 20 hours in which to smelt that ore.

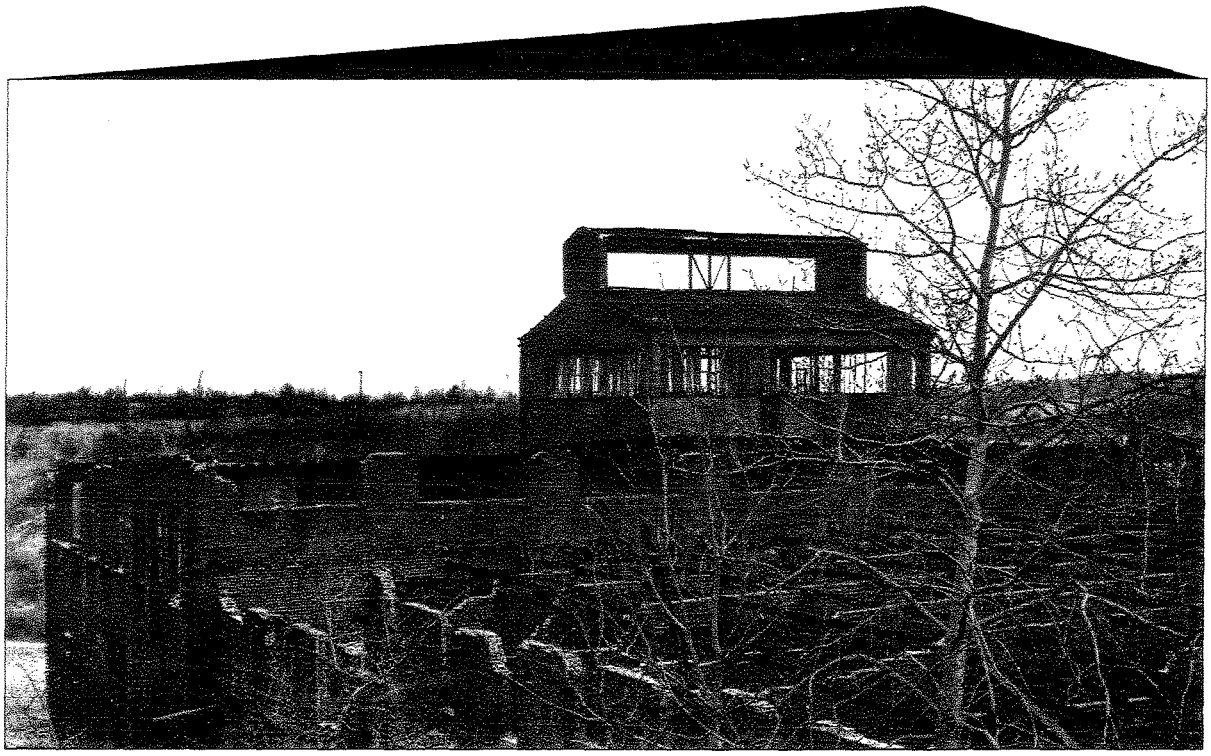
Abate: Most of the work was what we'd call piece work. It was "Do your job, and then get the hell out of here and go home, you're done." It would be nothing for four men to unload 200 ton of ore out of the boxcars, starting at 7, and be done by 11 or 12 o'clock in the morning. It would be nothing for the zinc loaders to load 200 or 300 ton of zinc from 5 o'clock in the morning till 10 o'clock. It was a good system, it worked.

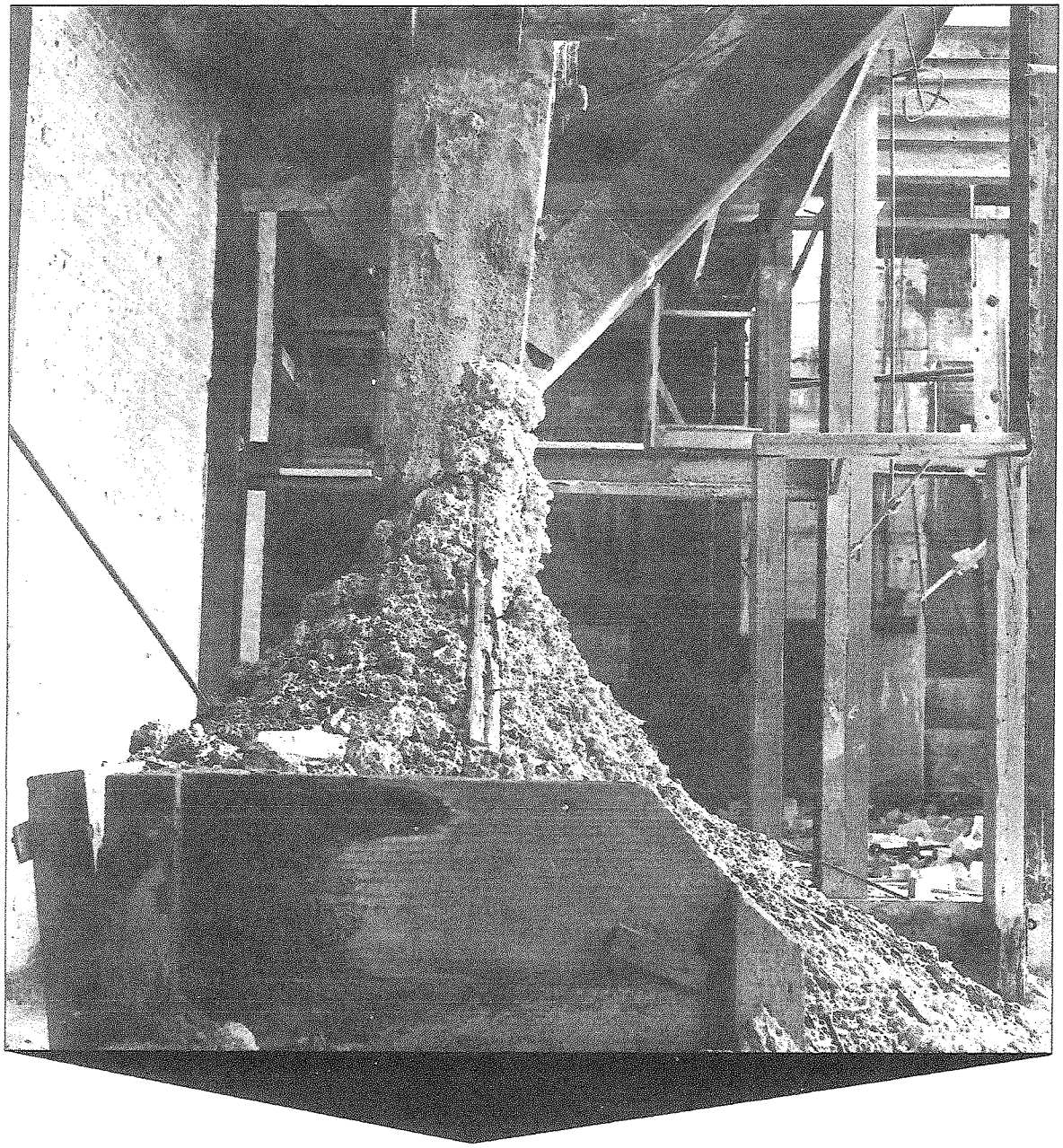
After the plant went down, four of us went down to Koppers in Monaca. We needed a job. I'll never forget it. They gave us, four of us, a 50 ton car of rock salt to unload. What did we know? It was our first day on the job. So we took our shovels, and at 10 o'clock we were done! They'd never seen anything like that. "Are you people crazy? This is a two-day job!" What did we know? So after the first wave went down there, they couldn't hire enough people from up here. After we worked there a little while, they had ways of slowing you down.

We returned to Langeloth a number of times, in all seasons. Once in January, with Caesar Prado as guide, we hiked the site during a heavy snow squall.

Weeks later, with a scattering of snow still on the ground, we explored for the first time the pottery, a now roofless brick structure, many of its floors fallen in — some of it (in 1989) partially torn down. The building's central space had evidently housed the ceramics workshop, where retorts and condensers were fashioned. On either side, in flanking wings, were storage chambers.

One spring in the early 1980s, we approached across the blue-green slag dump of the operating molybdenum plant and examined the pottery's innards at leisure. It had that strange look of suspended animation we'd seen at other abandoned plants and mines in Western Pennsylvania — as though work had stopped in the middle of a shift, and people had simply walked away.





A mound of clay stood under a chute, like a stalagmite. Nearby lay the bit of a large machine, used for boring out the retorts. In one of the side chambers, hundreds of finished condensers were heaped, some broken, where they had fallen when a floor above had given way. The pottery, showing the prominence of ceramics in the whole zinc smelting process, seemed to summarize the Langeloth operation. In a quite literal sense, it was *basic* industry: earthy, primary.

We also visited the village of Langeloth. Located on the hill ridge one-half mile north of the plant, it had been intended as a "model town" by founder Jacob Langeloth. During the zinc era, the company built the houses, supplied electricity from the plant, ran the water works, and supported the elementary school. Residents we spoke to recall the services as better than those in nearby towns. They remember the low rents and the company's free supply of home improvement materials.

Langeloth's neighborhoods divided ethnically. "English," or "Americans" — the managers — had homes along the hill ridge on the north side of the main

street. "Biscuit shooters," workers who had migrated from Appalachia, lived across the street; next to them were a couple of blocks of Spaniards. Down the hill were Italians, Greeks and some Mexicans. Caesar Prado said there was a good deal of kidding between the groups, but they got along "like one big family."

The only retail outlet in Langeloth was the company store. The town was dry. There was a Protestant church; Catholics, the majority group, traveled to Burgettstown, two miles away. Workers who wished to buy or build homes lived in Slovan, in the hollow just east of the plant, where the population became predominantly Eastern European. Judging by the storefronts (some now closed) along its main street, Slovan was a more characteristic mill town than Langeloth. One old-timer told us, "It was like a frontier town. There were taverns up and down the street. It was open all night."

The zinc works at Langeloth operated for 33 years. Creating in mind's eye its technology, we had come to see it as typical of the Pittsburgh region's historic industries: labor intensive, and thus dependent on cheap labor; built literally on coal as the energy source.

On June 24, 1947, American Zinc and Chemical announced it was shutting down, and in the plant's closing, we found another typical story. Labor cost was one obvious element. The plant was unionized in the 1930s, and like workers in most of America's unionized industries, members of the Smeltermen's Local 95 started a post-war push to improve wages and benefits. The company took the line that new wage demands and strikes would spell the end. When union and management could not agree on a contract in the spring of 1947, the company made its decision. Those who wished to blame the union for the Langeloth shutdown could, and did. One industry analyst summed up:

> An example of the end result of super-unionism and low worker productivity is evidenced by the case of the zinc smelter located at Langeloth, Pennsylvania, which shut down operations permanently in December 1947. The damaging effect of compounded labor inefficiency had increased the cost of producing zinc to such an extent that this smelter could no longer sell its product at a competitive price. — C.M. Cotterill, "Technology and Logistics of Zinc Smelting," *Industrial Plant Location*, 1950.

But other factors may have been more decisive. The plant needed new investment for repairs, particularly in the acid facility, which had been badly damaged by use. More fundamentally, such evidence as we found (in the absence of detailed financial statements) suggests that the plant was never particularly profitable. It may never have achieved the market projected by its developers. The Depression went on for nearly one-third of the plant's life, and during that time the plant operated at only a fraction of capacity. Ex-workers recall how zinc slabs were stockpiled in nearby hollows until they loomed above the level of the plant itself, and then were sold immediately at the start of World War II. An ex-manager of American Metal, Erwin Weil, suggested to us in a phone interview that if not for the war, the plant would have been shut down sooner.

Langeloth's horizontal retort technology, developed in the 1870s, was also obsolescent. An electrothermic vertical retort furnace, offering better labor efficiencies, was installed by another company in nearby Monaca in the 1930s. By the 1940s, new plants built in America were using an electrolytic process. Situated in the northwestern states, these facilities could capitalize on cheap hydroelectricity. In the Southwest, even the old horizontal retort technology profitted from cheap natural gas. Coal had lost its comparative advantage as a fuel. Moreover, in the West, the industry could often employ cheaper non-union labor.

In a front page editorial on June 26, 1947, the *Burgettstown Enterprise*

lamented the plant's closing in terms that have become familiar in northeastern America:

> The die is cast! The dire threat that has been stifling trade and progress in this Community for a quarter of a century today becomes a fact.
>
> When the powers that be of the American Zinc and Chemical Company announced to the salaried employees and members of the Langeloth Smeltermen's Union this morning at 10 o'clock that operations at the hill plant will be stopped and the plant dismantled ("in an orderly fashion, it is hoped") a blow was hurled at this community that it will be hard to recover from.
>
> Pulling our biggest industry, employing a thousand men, and cessation of a payroll that ran well into the millions of dollars simply is verification of "scare" rumours that have stifled the community many, many years.

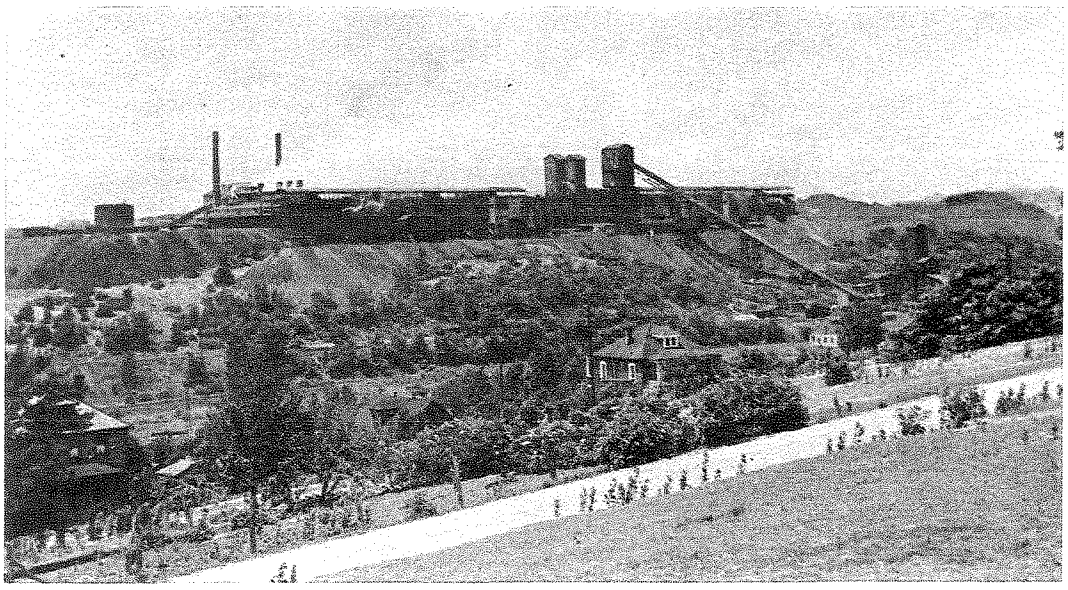
Today the bitterness seems gone. "It was a good company to work for" was the summary comment offered to us most often.

Langeloth still has the look of a rural village. The houses on its hill ridge, managers' homes in the zinc era, are well kept. The street grid slopes off into an undeveloped hollow — a railroad station was once there — then resumes on the hill to the south: Miners Hill, where the zinc plant's coal miners lived. Some of the houses on the lower slope and on Miners Hill are in disrepair, but in general the town is clean and pleasant.

Across from Climax Molybdenum, on the crest of the hill, is the house of Gus Barbush, the former operator of the company store. With the demise of American Zinc and Chemical, Barbush bought the Langeloth Townsite Co. and eventually sold off the former company houses to local residents. His own home, decorated in red, was once the residence of the zinc plant's superintendent. Barbush, a Greek immigrant who settled in Langeloth by 1920, died in Spring 1989, at age 90.

Caesar Prado and Joe Abate — our major sources of first-hand information — still live nearby. Retired from his own Burgettstown appliance business, Prado has a suburban home just outside of Langeloth. Abate, who managed the Robinson Township Municipal Authority for many years, is also retired and lives in a small house in Slovan — in fact, the house he was raised in.

Both men enjoy talking about the zinc works. ■



View of zinc works from Slovan, c.1945

SERIAL

No. 17 212557

Form W-2
U. S. Treasury Department
Internal Revenue Service

WITHHOLDING RECEIPT—1945
For Income Tax Withheld on Wages

Employee's Copy
DUPLICATE

EMPLOYER BY WHOM PAID (Name, address, and S. S. identification No.)

AMERICAN ZINC & CHEMICAL COMPANY
Langeloth, Pa. 25-0322843

Total Wages paid in 1945	Federal Income Tax withheld	Soc. Sec. Tax Deducted	
$ 2291.32	$ 278.80	$	SINGLE ☐ MARRIED ☒

EMPLOYEE TO WHOM PAID Print full name, address, Social Security No.

176-10-9814
1887 ROCCO BONI
Burgettstown, Pa.

To EMPLOYEE: Change name and address if not correctly shown

APP. B. I. R. 12-27-44

To EMPLOYEE: Keep this Withholding Receipt. You will need it when you file your 1945 income tax return *after* December 31, 1945.

You may use a Withholding Receipt as your 1945 income tax return if your 1945 income meets the TEST below. A married couple *may* make a combined return on this Withholding Receipt, if their total income meets the test. Their incomes should be combined on Lines 1, 2, and 3, and shown separately on Line 4. The Government will figure the tax on either the combined or the separate incomes, whichever is to the taxpayers' advantage.

LINE 1 Write total of wages shown on this and all your other 1945 Withholding Receipts (Form W-2) ____ $ ____

LINE 2 If you got any wages from which no tax was withheld, or any dividends or interest, write total ____ $ ____

LINE 3 Add Lines 1 and 2. Write total here ____ $ ____

TEST: If Line 2 is not over $100 AND Line 3 is less than $5,000, you may use this Withholding Receipt as your return *provided you had no income other than wages, dividends, and interest.* If your income does not meet this test, use Form 1040.

LINE 4 If Line 3 includes income of both husband and wife, show husband's income here $ ____ ; wife's income here $ ____

EMPLOYEE SHOULD KEEP THIS COPY FOR HIS RECORD.

DO NOT FILE WITH COLLECTOR.

(over)

—: IDENTIFICATION CARD :—

I. U. of M. M. & S. W.
"Langeloth Smeltermen's Union No. 95"

7

ORGANIZATION

EDUCATION

To Whom It May Concern:

This Certifies that:

Rocco Boni

is a member of the "Langeloth Smeltermen's Union No. 95" and is entitled to all rights and privileges granted by our Constitution and By-Laws.

Manuel Nunez — Rec. Sec'y.

O. M. Marino — Pres.

Mike Boller — Fin. Sec'y.

Signature of Member

INDEPENDENCE

American Zinc Sells Farm To John Ostop

John and Evelyn Ostop of Slovan purchased at public auction last week the 89 acre farm known locally as the "Shillito Farm" but recently owned by the American Zinc and Chemical Company.

Machinery and stock owned by the company was also sold to various individuals at auction.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cowden and family, who lived on the farm recently, have moved to Route 31 near Washington.

American Zinc Sells Farm to John Ostop
Burgettstown Enterprise –April 15, 1948 Edition

SMELTERMEN WILL RAISE SERVICE FLAG WITH SIXTY STARS

A Fourth of July celebration at the Community Hall at Langeloth, on Independence Day, will be featured by the dedication of a Service Flag bearing stars for each of the 60 members of the Local No. 95 of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers at the American Zinc and Chemical Company plant.

The Independence Day observance is to open at noon; games and sports will occupy the early afternoon; the flag dedication and a speaking program will take place at 4 p.m.; family picnics are scheduled in the early evening and a dance is planned to start at 9 p.m.

Attorney John C. Judson of Washington will be the guest speaker at the program. Other speakers will be Fred H. Illig, and C. M. Marino. The speakers will be introduced by Mrs. Otice Wilgocki, chairman of the amusement committee.

The service flag was bought by the company and the women's amusement committee sewed on the stars.

Music for the dance is to be furnished by the Dio Richert orchestra.

All proceeds of the day's events will be divided equally among the 60 men now in the armed services.

A softball game between the Smeltermen of Moundsville and Scott's Service team is called for 5 o'clock.

7-2-42

Smeltermen Will Raise Service Flag with Sixty Stars
Burgettstown Enterprise-July 2, 1942 Edition

SMITH TWP. SCHOOL DIRECTORS SEND APPEAL TO AM. METALS

At a special meeting of the Smith Township School Board held Monday evening, June 30, the fololwing telegram was sent to B. N. Zimmer, President of American Zinc and Chemical Company, 61 Broadway, New York City.

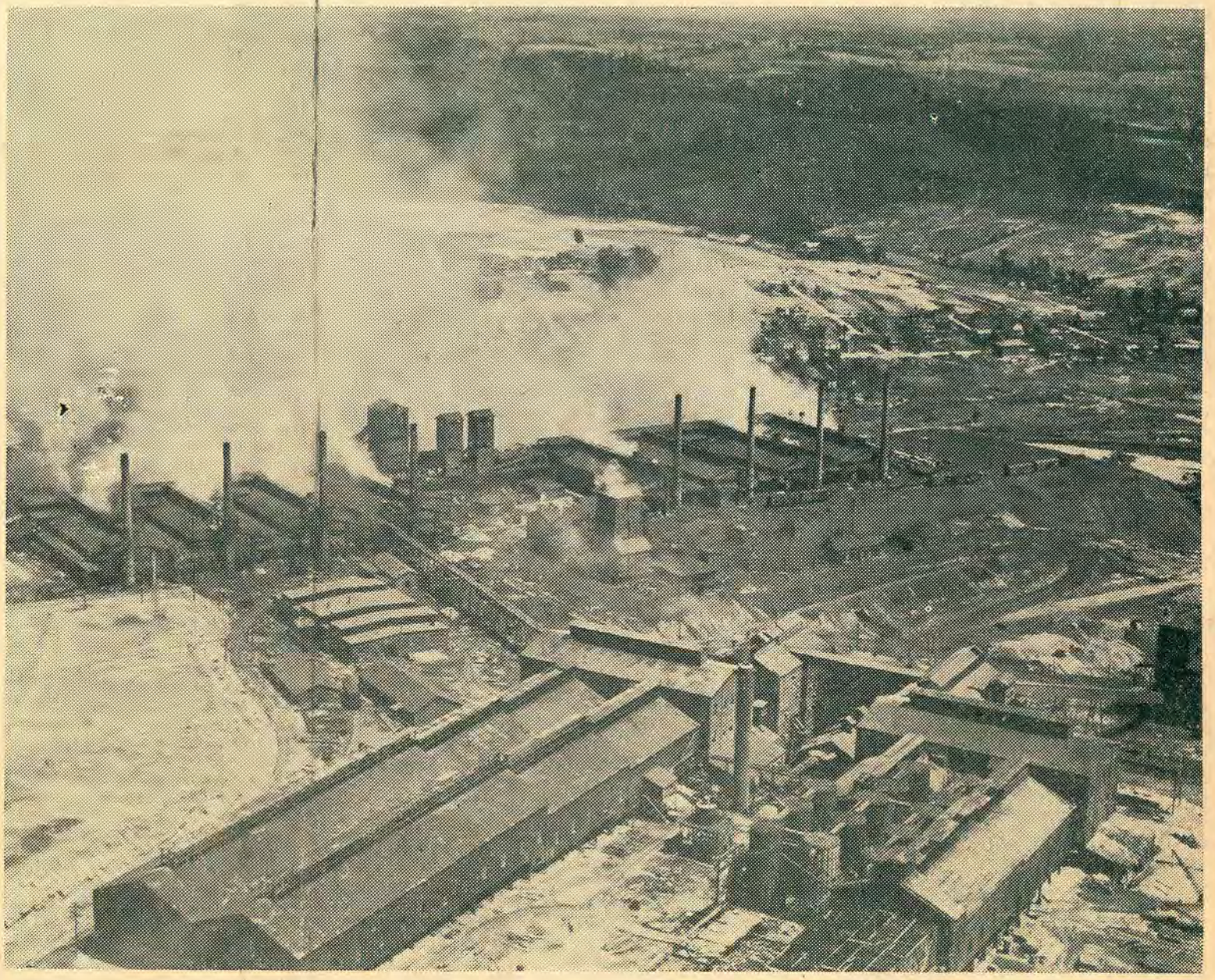
"The Smith Township School Board recognizing the American Zinc and Chemical Company as its largest taxpayer and the serious effect the imminent closing of the Langeloth plant will have on the school system of the district respectfully and urgently requests that strong effort be made to bring about a sclution to whatever problems are confronting the company by some means other than the present plan. This letter authorized by unanimous vote of the Smith Township School Board at a special meeting held on Monday night, June 30."

Signed—P. J. Sciamanna,
president.

The regular meetings of the joint school board and township school board has been postponed one week. They will be held on July 15 and 16 .

Smith Twp. School Directors Send Appeal to American Zinc
Burgettstown Enterprise-July 3, 1947 Edition

STRIKE-BOUND PLANT OF LANGELOTH AMERICAN ZINC & CHEMICAL CO.



—Photo by Coffer

There is no smoke pouring from the seven giant chimneys at the American Zinc and Chemical Company's strike bound plant, such as the above photo shows during war time production days.

The dead lock between the Union Grievance Committee and officials of the American Metal Company held for the fourth week and negotiations remained at a stand still. Officials of the union maintain that they desire to deal direct with New York representatives of the Company, while the company policy as previously stated, seems to be the strike issues must be settled with their local representatves.

Vacation pay to employees was made this week, and it appears that this will be the final pay day for some time at the plant on the hill.

C. M. Marino, spokesman for the zincmen, recently returned from a conference with other Zinc unions at East St. Louis, told the Enterprise this week that arrangements have been made to carry the strike issues to Washington, D. C. He said that representatives of the Smeltermen's Union, C.I.O. and the Zinc Council which he heads, are contacting Congressmen and U. S. Senators, to protest selling of zinc from government tock piles to private industry. The Union maintains that by so doing the government is using the money provided by zincmen's war bonds against the zinc workers. He stated that zinc production is only about 56 per cent in this country and that while zinc prices have increased sharply and government subsidies hold, to permit the industry an even break with foreign ore, there is very little zinc available for post-war production. This is the reason, Marino stated, that John Q. Public has little or no chance of getting a new car this year, and the many other appliances and products that are badly needed.

Strike-Bound Plant of Langeloth American Zinc & Chemical Company
Burgettstown Enterprise-July 11, 1946 Edition

LANGELOTH ZINC STRIKE ENDS. MEN GIVEN 2½c WAGE RAISE, TO FIRE FURNACES IN 10 DAYS

Members of the Langeloth Smeltermen's Union No. 95 at a special meeting in Illig Memorial Hall on Sunday afternoon, September 22 voted to return to work at the American Zinc and Chemical Company plant and to accept a wage increase of 2½ cents per hour. Thus ended a 108 day work stoppage at the hill plant that it is estimated cost 300 employes more than 700 dollars each in lost wages. Loss in payroll to the Greater Burgettstown Community is said to be more than one-half million dollars. It is estimated that the company will have to spend a half million dollars to re-condition the plant for operation, as there has been no maintenance since the fires were drawn on Friday, June 7.

The striking employees appear to be the greatest losers by the strike, since their payroll loss was not nearly offset by the $20 unemployment compensation which they received for a period of about 6 weeks. It is estimated that the 2½c an hour gained, amounting to about 20c a day, cannot be absorbed by their pay checks under a period of about 120 months or 10 years.

As noted in an official statement released today, jointly by the Company and the Union, other matters at issue in the strike will be referred to arbitration.

When the strike was called the following points were in dispute-

1. A wage increase of 18½ cents per hour as of May 16, 1946.
2. An additional ½ man per furnace.
3. One additional man in the spelter crew.
4. An opportunity to talk about additional help for metal drawers when the increased work load makes it necessary.
5. Accusations that the Company refuses to bargain collectively.
6. Alleged efforts on the part of foremen to "undermine" the Union.
7. Alleged numerous violations of the contract by the Company by failing to maintain "the same working conditions and provisions as at present."
8. Payment of iron workers' rates to maintance men when they do that type of work—the acid tanks in particular.

The 2½c wage increase granted, brings the total increase to 18½c an hour, this year, since a 16 cent raise was granted October 1945 re-troactive to August

This maintains the daily basic wage of the hilltop workers at a higher average than any other zinc plant in the United States, with the exception of the Donara zinc plant, a subsidiary of United States Steel.

R. H. Meisenhelder, General Superintendent stated today that he believes the hilltop plant can be readied for partial operation this week and that some of the furnaces will be fired within 10 days. Shortage of materials will somewhat hinder the re-conditioning operations and the scarcity of bricklayers is another obstacle to early operation. About 175 men were recalled to work last Monday but within 6 to 8 weeks it is believed that 24 hour operation can be resumed with a full quota of employees.

The fact that there exists today a 40,000 ton deficit in zinc production augurs well for full production at the hilltop plant. Another favorable sign for full production is the reserve metals stockpile for which the United States Government has earmarked more than one hundred billion dollars. Zinc is included in this reserve.

Manuel Nunez, machine shop employe and President of the Smeltermen's Union is in accord with Mr. Meisenhelder and Mr. Hershey that the remaining matters at issue other than the pay increase, can be satisfactorily settled by arbitration and that the hilltop plant can be operated at a profit both to the men and the company. Company officials have indicated a willingness to make broad allowances for the rent, insurance, and medical care indebtedness that has accumulated during the strike.

Settlement of the strike followed a meeting held in Washington, D. C. on Wednesday, September 18. This conference arranged by the Concilation Service of the United States Department of Labor was attended by:

R. H. Meisenhelder, General Superintendent of the A. Z. & C. Co., D. G. Hershey, labor relations director; Atty. Charles Hamilton, Jr., a member of the firm of Sullivan & Cromwell of New York City, counsel for the American Metals Co., and

Ronald Haughton, chairman of a 3 man panel of the United States Concilation Service, who had participated in previous negotiations held in Pittsburgh, also Judge Bell, a U. S. Attorney and

C. M. Marino, chairman of the strike committee, representing Union No. 95 and 10 members of the grievance and strike committee of the Langeloth Union. Mr. Marino and other members of the union had previously attended a convention of the International Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers in Cleveland, O. and

Messrs. Clott and Walkenshaw, Washington representatives of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers' Union C. I. O.

Langeloth Zinc Strike Ends. Men Given 2 ½c Wage Raise, to Fire Furnace in 10 Days

Burgettstown Enterprise-September 26, 1946 Edition

The Plant of the American Zinc & Chemical Company at Langeloth, PA.

Employees' Houses with Special Features of Construction

The Iron Age-May 13, 1915

Zinc Manufacture in the Pittsburgh District

The Plant of the American Zinc & Chemical Company at Langeloth, Pa.—Employees' Houses with Special Features of Construction

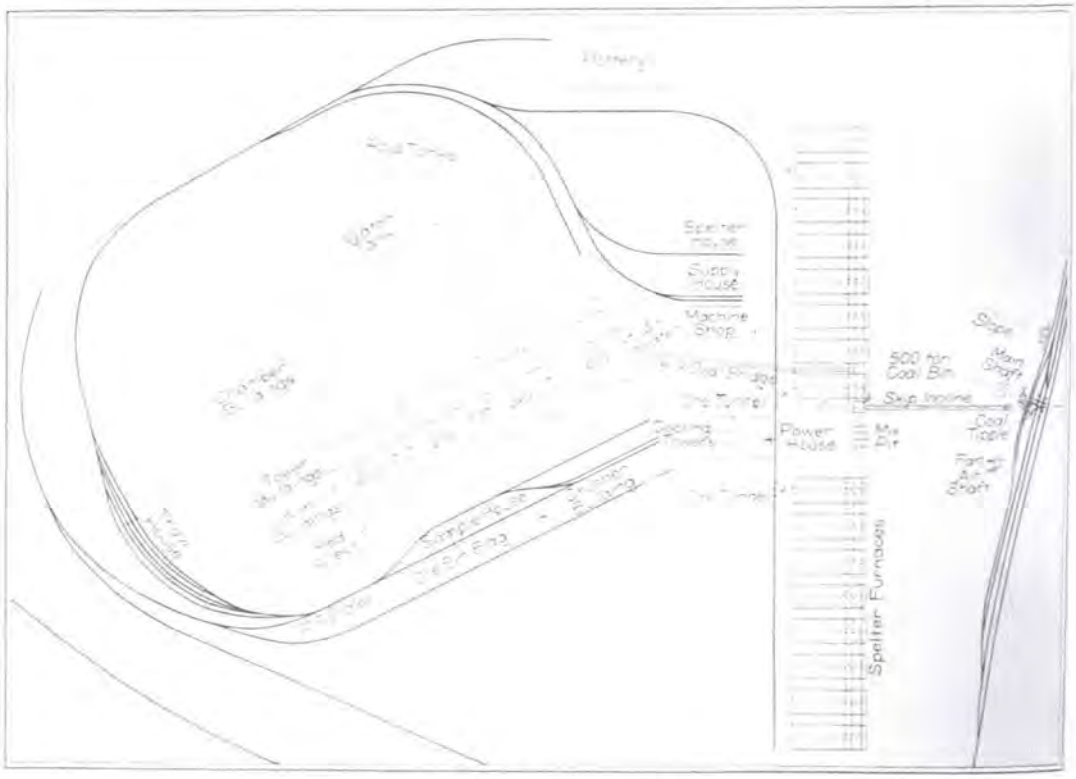
In April, 1913, through the efforts of Ralph Cooke, industrial agent of the Pennsylvania Lines West, the American Zinc & Chemical Company, an identified interest of the American Metal Company, New York, secured about 900 acres of ground two miles south of Burgettstown, Pa., on the main line of the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad. Of this, 400 acres located on the crest of a hill and admirably adapted for the purpose, was set aside for a plant for the manufacture of spelter and its by-products, sulphuric acid, while about 500 acres located just west of the plant site were reserved for the building of a new town for employees to be named Langeloth, in honor of a chairman of the board of the American Metal Company, who died less than a year ago.

Ore Bin and Crusher Building

Tower Building
Roasting Furnaces

Active work on the plant was started in June, 1913, and in a little more than a year the first unit was finished and put in operation. The ground plan, as shown in an illustration, gives an idea of the general layout of the plant, but it should be noted that only one unit has been completed. The three units to the left are prospective, while that to the extreme right is finished and in operation.

There are direct sidings from the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, also from a branch line



A General Map of the New Spelter Plant at Langeloth, Pa.

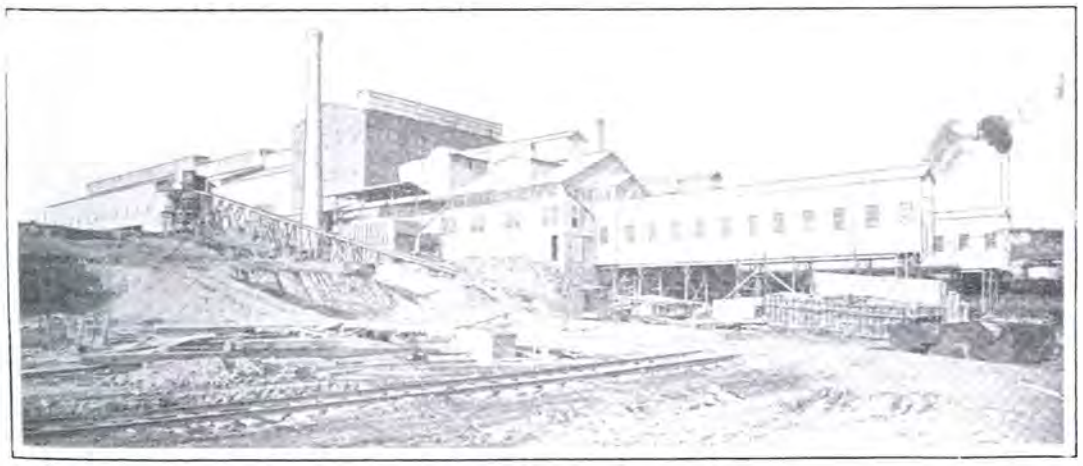
of that road, running from Burgettstown to Patterson mills, while the company itself has built a main service standard gauge line, which completely encircles its plant and also numerous switches connecting different departments.

In order to obtain a supply of pure water essential to its purposes, the company built a concrete dam just south of its works on its own property. This has a capacity for storing 15,000,000 gal., the reservoir being supplied by natural water sheds and springs. From this reservoir the water is pumped by centrifugal and plunger pumps through a 12-in. cast-iron pipe water line to a steel tank, built by the Des Moines Bridge & Iron Works, with a capacity of 250,000 gal., and from this tank water is taken to all departments of the plant through 12-in. mains.

Power House Distillation Furnaces Coal Tipple

The coal supply is obtained from about 2500 acres of Pittsburgh seam coal owned by the company. The mine is located near the smelter and the coal is delivered from the tipple to a steel incline, the cars being electrically hauled up this incline to a 500-ton steel storage bin. From a bridge under this bin, the cars are loaded by gravity and hauled by electric motors over steel bridges to bins located in different parts of the works. All the coal mining is done by machines, and in addition to the main hoisting shaft there is a slope entrance built of concrete, 8 ft. high, leading into the mines through which all supplies are taken and which is also used by the miners in going to and returning from work. The company has a supply of coal amply sufficient to meet its needs, when the four units of its plant have been built, for many years to come. The company intends to market the lump coal and use its slack for smelting purposes.

The smelting plant is located on high ground, with a view to having better working conditions for the men. This necessitated a large amount of excavating and concrete work. The different departments are so laid out that three additional units can be constructed without cramping or disturbing the operation of the present one. The present plant comprises a sample house, ore bin and crusher building; two roasting furnaces and their respective



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The roasting furnaces are of the Hegeler type, 20 x 80 ft., with modern improvements in both the furnaces proper and their machinery. Each furnace is double, seven hearths high, the dimensions of each hearth being 6 ft. x 20 ft., making about 6800 sq. ft. of hearth area. The large lower hearths are muffled. The interior arches have considerable spring and are built of tongue and grooved brick. A special brick is laid above each row of skewbacks to carry the weight of the rabble, which keeps it off the hearth, the latter can then rise and fall with the arches. The rakes are the usual style used in this class of roaster. An improvement in the rake rods is that they are jointed in sections thus allowing easy replacement of any part. The rods are drawn through the furnace by endless chains.

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THE SULPHURIC ACID DEPARTMENT

Two buildings contain the sulphuric acid department, one known as the Tower building, 95 x 220 ft., and the other the chamber building, 138 x 440 ft., the former being all steel and brick and the latter steel construction. The roast furnace gases on leaving the furnace pass through a centrifugal dust chamber, 30 ft. in hight and 20 ft. in diameter. The chamber has a hopper bottom so that dust can be drawn out into cars in an ore tunnel running underneath the roasting furnaces. The gases pass on to the Glover tower, which is 14 x 14 x 40 ft. in hight and thence through 10 lead chambers, which have a space of 360,000 cu. ft. From the chambers the gases pass through three Gay Lussac towers which are 14 x 14 x 40 ft. All towers are packed with special chemical brick. Two hard lead fans are used for forcing the gases through the towers and chambers. The acid is pumped to the tops of towers by means of acid eggs and compressed air. Large steel storage tanks are located convenient to railroad, and acid is loaded by gravity into tank cars.

There are four distillation furnaces, all of the Hegeler type, each containing 864 retorts of 8-in. inside diameter. The smelting capacity of each furnace is 20 tons. An improved Hegeler type of gas producer, 9½ x 22 ft., furnishes the necessary gas. The furnaces are placed parallel at 100 ft. centers, each building having a width of 70 ft., thus allowing ample space between furnaces for light and air. The building having been substantially built of steel, a sheet steel hood surrounds each furnace, thus affording extremely good ventilation for the workers. Counterweighted doors are used between hood and working floor after the campaign has been completed. The waste gases from the furnace pass through a 588 hp. Rust vertical tube boiler and thence to a Radial brick stack, 125 ft. high, built by the Heine Chimney Company of Chicago, with an inside diameter of 6 ft. at the top. Each boiler is equipped with a firebox for direct firing, in case of the shut down of a furnace.

Retort annealing kilns are placed at the end of furnaces. Down-draft kilns are used with flues connecting with the large radial stack. Each furnace is equipped with a No. 6 Sirocco fan of 27,000 cu. ft. capacity against a pressure of 5 in. of water. An air main extends longitudinally over the furnace with branch pipes leading to both sides of furnace, ports being between each section of 24 retorts. A particular feature of the furnace is the flat roof

arch laid at the same slope as the retorts. The buckstaves are connected with tie rods through springs, thus allowing for the usual expansion. The bottom of the buckstaves have ball and socket joints, allowing movement in any direction. Another variation from the usual custom is that a large pocket is directly under the furnace, allowing room for the accumulation of several days' residue. A tunnel under this pocket allows the easy removal of residue. This arrangement of tunnel and pocket eliminates all possibility of up-draft in front of the furnaces. Each gas producer has a massive reinforced concrete bin over it, capable of holding a 15-days' supply of coal, which is fed by gravity into the producer.

THE POWER PLANT AND POTTERY

The power plant is contained in a steel and brick building, 43½ x 120 ft., and is equipped with a General Electric 2000 kw. turbine and also with two Ingersoll-Rand air compressors. Alternating current is used throughout the plant. Steam for the power plant is supplied by waste heat boilers by an overhead line. The machine shop is a brick and steel building, 90 x 160 ft., to which special attention was paid in order to secure maximum light and ventilation. There are windows on all four sides of the machine shop building and also in the roof. The machine shop is equipped with a full line of iron working tools and at one end are located complete carpenter and pattern shops.

The pottery is a substantial brick and steel structure, 60 x 142 ft., conveniently arranged for building material. The drying rooms are located on both sides of a main alleyway. Another alleyway is at each end of the rooms, the latter being used for loading retorts and condensers into cars. The rooms are heated by steam pipes under grated floors, air being driven by a large Sirocco fan. The air from the rooms is taken out through galvanized air ducts. The clay is worked through the usual dry and wet pans. A Wettengel pug mill and hydraulic press are used for retort making and a Garrison machine is used for condenser making.

The company makes only two products, zinc and sulphuric acid, having a capacity of about 50 tons of zinc per day and about 100 tons of sulphuric acid. Its entire product is sold to domestic consumers but the company has made a few foreign shipments. The entire works were designed and built by N. L. Heinz, general manager. Mr. Heinz is also the designer and erector of the huge acid plant of the Duckton Sulphur, Copper & Iron Company, Ltd., of Isabella, Tenn., where blast-furnace gases are used. Archibald Jones is general superintendent and J. W. Geib, assistant superintendent.

THE TOWN FOR EMPLOYEES

When the works at Langeloth were established they were built on farm land and there was no means of taking care of employees of the company except in building houses for them. This was done, and the company has established, just west of the factory site, a new town known as Langeloth, where some 60 to 70 houses have been built and are occupied by its employees. Some new ideas in construction in the building of these houses were carried out. They are built of different designs so that there is no monotony in their appearance. A new feature in the detail of their construction is the use of sheet zinc placed outside the sheathing, instead of paper, thus affording a lasting material, which is windproof, vermin proof and damp proof. Tinning strips are nailed on the studding over the zinc sheets and metal lath outside of this, on which is placed concrete stucco plaster. The houses are roofed with red slate imbedded and shingles which add much to their appearance. Some of the houses are five rooms and others seven rooms, and they are neat and equipped with modern appliances. Water is furnished from the company's own supply, and natural gas and coal are used for fuel. It is probable the company will build a large number of houses as soon as contemplated plant additions have been made.

Practical Co-operation in Foundry Work

The Philadelphia Foundrymen's Association held its monthly meeting at the Manufacturers' Club, in that city, Wednesday evening, May 5, having as its special guests the officers and members of the Associated Foundry Foremen of Philadelphia and vicinity. Paul E. Poindexter, of the reorganization committee of the Greater Chamber of Commerce of Philadelphia, addressed the meeting and after explaining the plans under which the new organization proposed to operate urged the foundrymen to become members.

William H. Barr, president of the Lumen Bearing Company, Buffalo, who is president of the National Founders' Association, made an interesting address on "Co-operation in the Foundry." It behooves every foundryman, he said, to devote time and energy to the betterment of working conditions. Something must be done to stimulate foundry labor, both skilled and unskilled. Manufacturers will have to deal in the next few years with a shortage of unskilled labor. The influx of foreign labor, following the war abroad, will be smaller. Foundrymen should look forward to this condition and prepare in advance. Methods and machinery should be installed to bring out maximum production with a minimum of labor. The installation of modern foundry equipment will go a long way toward solving the problem. Team work in daily foundry operation, not only in the individual organization, but also with associated foundrymen, will do much.

Reference was made to the constructive work of the National Founders' Association, particularly on lines of safety and sanitation. Hazards have been reduced, and the work has been made more agreeable. The standardization of goggles, leggings, foundry shoes, safety guards on machinery, etc., has aided materially in minimizing foundry accidents.

The treatment and education of apprentices were touched upon; also uniform legislation relating to the conduct of the foundry, maintenance of order in and about the foundry, the foundry store and scrap castings. Mr. Barr recommended closer co-operation between the shop foremen and the sales forces. Much can be accomplished by meetings of the department heads and sales forces. The game should be studied from all angles, so as to get out of the old low-capacity rut and build up a clean, profitable business on a sound basis.

Following the meeting a planked shad luncheon was served, at which informal addresses were made by various members and guests.

The Jeffrey Mfg. Company, Columbus, Ohio, announces the removal of its New York branch from 77 Warren street to 50 Dey street, adjoining the Hudson Terminal. In its new quarters the company proposes to carry the largest combined stock of its kind in New York City, consisting of power transmission machinery and elevating and conveying appliances. A large engineering and sales force will be maintained with ample facilities for handling promptly inquiries and orders. George H. Mueller, assistant sales manager of the Jeffrey Company, is the manager in charge of this office.

The steel plant of the International High Speed Steel Company at Rockaway, N. J., is nearing completion, and it is expected it will be in operation by the latter part of June. The product will be tool steels, alloy steels, high speed steels of various shapes, solid octagon and cruciform and hollow hexagon and round rock drill steels under the Bulldog brand.

ZINC WORKERS GET 80c DAY PAY RAISE

Officials of the American Zinc and Chemical company announced this week that approximately seven hundred employees of the plant at Langeloth have been granted an eighty cents a day pay raise. This raise is effective from May 16.

Smeltermen received news of the raise from President Celestine Marino at a meeting of the Union held Monday evening in the new community hall, recently built for the workers by the company.

Superintendent Illig is receiving congratulations this week on the occasion of the date of his twenty-fifth anniversary with the local plant. Mr. Illig began work here 25 years ago and during the years worked in various departments of the plant, until several years ago when he was made General Superintendent. Langeloth, contributing its share to the National Defense program, is now working full time, three shifts every 24 hours and employs about 700 men full time.

American Zinc Workers get 80¢ Day Pay Raise
Burgettstown Enterprise-May 22, 1944 Edition

Zinc Manufacture in the Pittsburgh District

The Iron Age
May 13, 1915

Courtesy of
Fort Vance Historical Society

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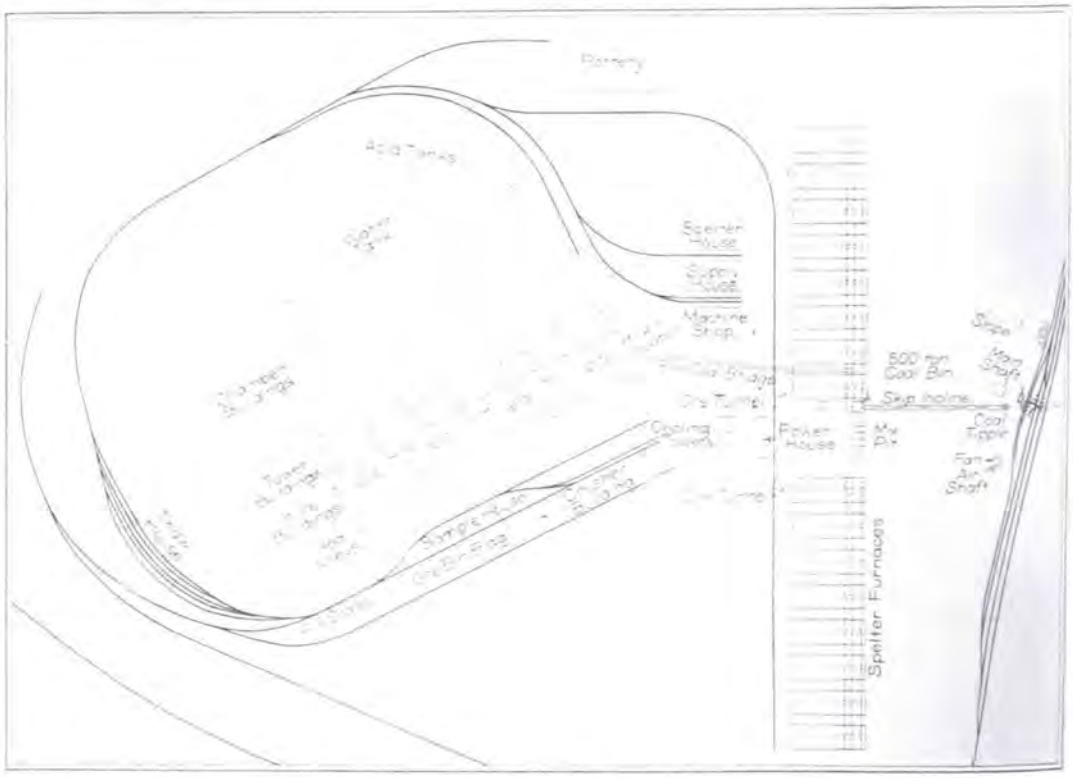

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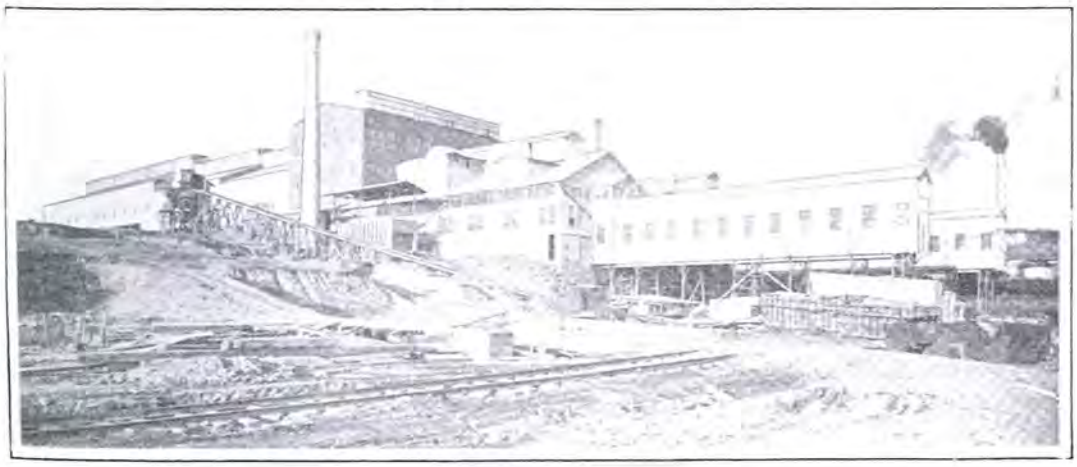

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THE SULPHURIC ACID DEPARTMENT

Two buildings contain the sulphuric acid department, one known as the Tower building, 95 x 220 ft., and the other the chamber building, 138 x 440 ft., the former being all steel and brick and the latter steel construction. The roast furnace gases on leaving the furnace pass through a centrifugal dust chamber, 30 ft. in hight and 20 ft. in diameter. The chamber has a hopper bottom so that dust can be drawn out into cars in an ore tunnel running underneath the roasting furnaces. The gases pass on to the Glover tower, which is 14 x 14 x 40 ft. in hight and thence through 10 lead chambers, which have a space of 360,000 cu. ft. From the chambers the gases pass through three Gay Lussac towers which are 14 x 14 x 40 ft. All towers are packed with special chemical brick. Two hard lead fans are used for forcing the gases through the towers and chambers. The acid is pumped to the tops of towers by means of acid eggs and compressed air. Large steel storage tanks are located convenient to railroad, and acid is loaded by gravity into tank cars.

There are four distillation furnaces, all of the Hegeler type, each containing 864 retorts of 8-in. inside diameter. The smelting capacity of each furnace is 20 tons. An improved Hegeler type of gas producer, 9½ x 22 ft., furnishes the necessary gas. The furnaces are placed parallel at 100 ft. centers, each building having a width of 70 ft., thus allowing ample space between furnaces for light and air. The building having been substantially built of steel, a sheet steel hood surrounds each furnace, thus affording extremely good ventilation for the workers. Counterweighted doors are used between hood and working floor after the campaign has been completed. The waste gases from the furnace pass through a 588 hp. Rust vertical tube boiler and thence to a Radial brick stack, 125 ft. high, built by the Heine Chimney Company of Chicago, with an inside diameter of 6 ft. at the top. Each boiler is equipped with a firebox for direct firing, in case of the shut down of a furnace.

Retort annealing kilns are placed at the end of furnaces. Down-draft kilns are used with flues connecting with the large radial stack. Each furnace is equipped with a No. 6 Sirocco fan of 27,000 cu. ft. capacity against a pressure of 5 in. of water. An air main extends longitudinally over the furnace with branch pipes leading to both sides of furnace, ports being between each section of 24 retorts. A particular feature of the furnace is the flat roof

arch laid at the same slope as the retorts. The buckstaves are connected with tie rods through springs, thus allowing for the usual expansion. The bottom of the buckstaves have ball and socket joints, allowing movement in any direction. Another variation from the usual custom is that a large pocket is directly under the furnace, allowing room for the accumulation of several days' residue. A tunnel under this pocket allows the easy removal of residue. This arrangement of tunnel and pocket eliminates all possibility of up-draft in front of the furnaces. Each gas producer has a massive reinforced concrete bin over it, capable of holding a 15-days' supply of coal, which is fed by gravity into the producer.

THE POWER PLANT AND POTTERY

The power plant is contained in a steel and brick building, 43½ x 120 ft., and is equipped with a General Electric 2000 kw. turbine and also with two Ingersoll-Rand air compressors. Alternating current is used throughout the plant. Steam for the power plant is supplied by waste heat boilers by an overhead line. The machine shop is a brick and steel building, 90 x 160 ft., to which special attention was paid in order to secure maximum light and ventilation. There are windows on all four sides of the machine shop building and also in the roof. The machine shop is equipped with a full line of iron working tools and at one end are located complete carpenter and pattern shops.

The pottery is a substantial brick and steel structure, 60 x 142 ft., conveniently arranged for building material. The drying rooms are located on both sides of a main alleyway. Another alleyway is at each end of the rooms, the latter being used for loading retorts and condensers into cars. The rooms are heated by steam pipes under grated floors, air being driven by a large Sirocco fan. The air from the rooms is taken out through galvanized air ducts. The clay is worked through the usual dry and wet pans. A Wettengel pug mill and hydraulic press are used for retort making and a Garrison machine is used for condenser making.

The company makes only two products, zinc and sulphuric acid, having a capacity of about 50 tons of zinc per day and about 100 tons of sulphuric acid. Its entire product is sold to domestic consumers but the company has made a few foreign shipments. The entire works were designed and built by N. L. Heinz, general manager. Mr. Heinz is also the designer and erector of the huge acid plant of the Duckton Sulphur, Copper & Iron Company, Ltd., of Isabella, Tenn., where blast-furnace gases are used. Archibald Jones is general superintendent and J. W. Geib, assistant superintendent.

THE TOWN FOR EMPLOYEES

When the works at Langeloth were established they were built on farm land and there was no means of taking care of employees of the company except in building houses for them. This was done, and the company has established, just west of the factory site, a new town known as Langeloth, where some 60 to 70 houses have been built and are occupied by its employees. Some new ideas in construction in the building of these houses were carried out. They are built of different designs so that there is no monotony in their appearance. A new feature in the detail of their construction is the use of sheet zinc placed outside the sheathing, instead of paper, thus affording a lasting material, which is windproof, vermin proof and damp proof. Tinning strips are nailed on the studding over the zinc sheets and metal lath outside of this, on which is placed concrete stucco plaster. The houses are roofed with red slate imbedded and shingles which add much to their appearance. Some of the houses are five rooms and others seven rooms, and they are neat and equipped with modern appliances. Water is furnished from the company's own supply, and natural gas and coal are used for fuel. It is probable the company will build a large number of houses as soon as contemplated plant additions have been made.

Practical Co-operation in Foundry Work

The Philadelphia Foundrymen's Association held its monthly meeting at the Manufacturers' Club, in that city, Wednesday evening, May 5, having as its special guests the officers and members of the Associated Foundry Foremen of Philadelphia and vicinity. Paul E. Poindexter, of the reorganization committee of the Greater Chamber of Commerce of Philadelphia, addressed the meeting and after explaining the plans under which the new organization proposed to operate urged the foundrymen to become members.

William H. Barr, president of the Lumen Bearing Company, Buffalo, who is president of the National Founders' Association, made an interesting address on "Co-operation in the Foundry." It behooves every foundryman, he said, to devote time and energy to the betterment of working conditions. Something must be done to stimulate foundry labor, both skilled and unskilled. Manufacturers will have to deal in the next few years with a shortage of unskilled labor. The influx of foreign labor, following the war abroad, will be smaller. Foundrymen should look forward to this condition and prepare in advance. Methods and machinery should be installed to bring out maximum production with a minimum of labor. The installation of modern foundry equipment will go a long way toward solving the problem. Team work in daily foundry operation, not only in the individual organization, but also with associated foundrymen, will do much.

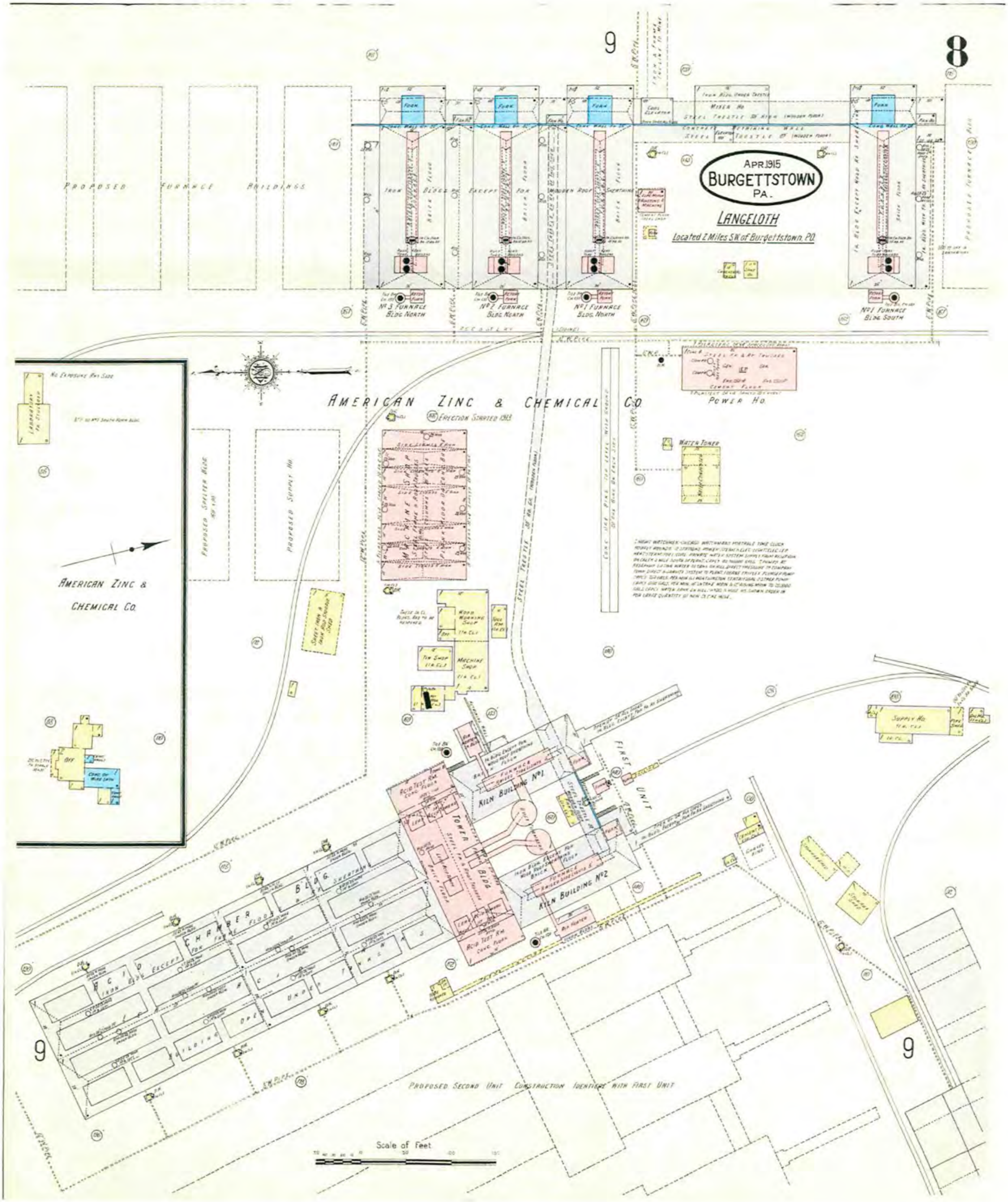
Reference was made to the constructive work of the National Founders' Association, particularly on lines of safety and sanitation. Hazards have been reduced, and the work has been made more agreeable. The standardization of goggles, leggings, foundry shoes, safety guards on machinery, etc., has aided materially in minimizing foundry accidents.

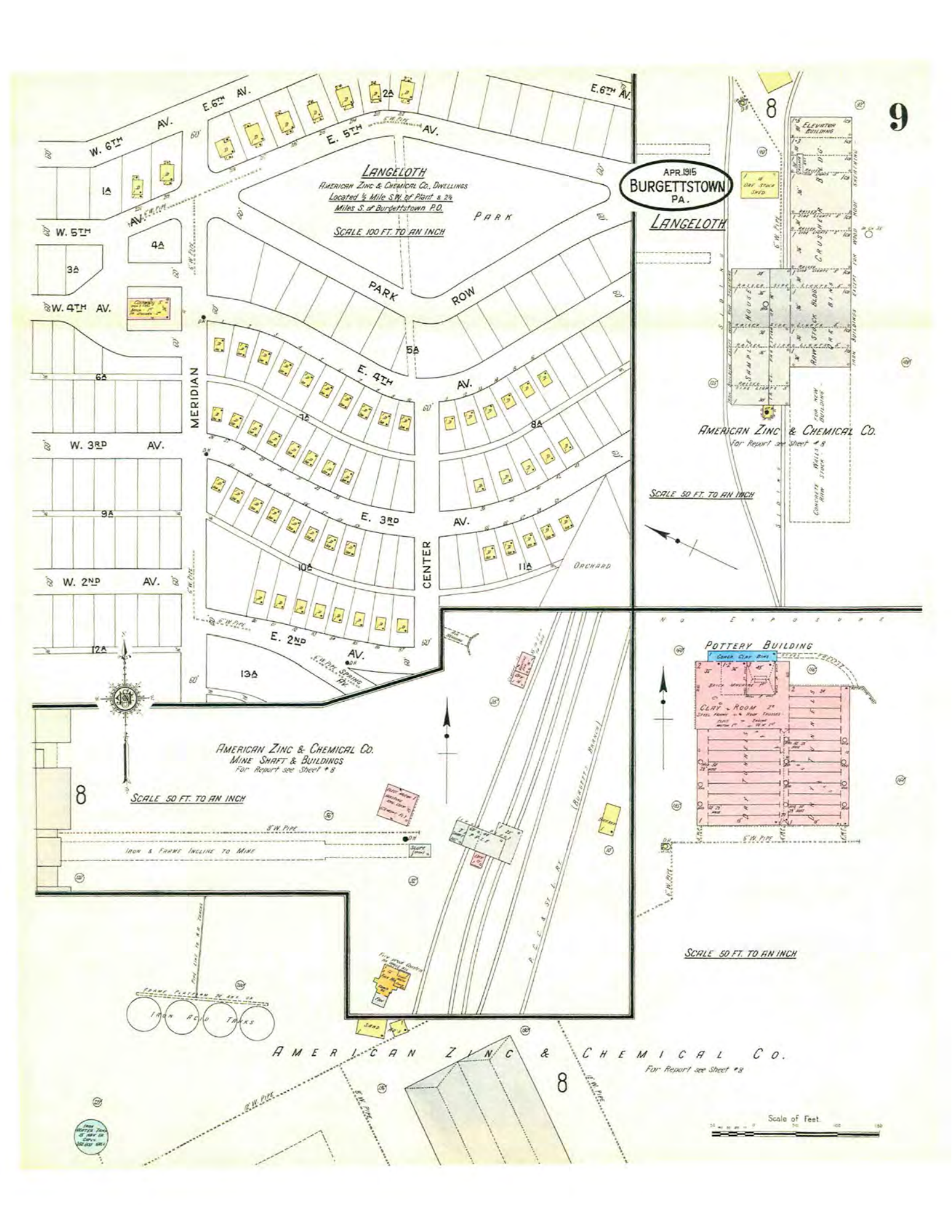
The treatment and education of apprentices were touched upon; also uniform legislation relating to the conduct of the foundry, maintenance of order in and about the foundry, the foundry store and scrap castings. Mr. Barr recommended closer co-operation between the shop foremen and the sales forces. Much can be accomplished by meetings of the department heads and sales forces. The game should be studied from all angles, so as to get out of the old low-capacity rut and build up a clean, profitable business on a sound basis.

Following the meeting a planked shad luncheon was served, at which informal addresses were made by various members and guests.

The Jeffrey Mfg. Company, Columbus, Ohio, announces the removal of its New York branch from 77 Warren street to 50 Dey street, adjoining the Hudson Terminal. In its new quarters the company proposes to carry the largest combined stock of its kind in New York City, consisting of power transmission machinery and elevating and conveying appliances. A large engineering and sales force will be maintained with ample facilities for handling promptly inquiries and orders. George H. Mueller, assistant sales manager of the Jeffrey Company, is the manager in charge of this office.

The steel plant of the International High Speed Steel Company at Rockaway, N. J., is nearing completion, and it is expected it will be in operation by the latter part of June. The product will be tool steels, alloy steels, high speed steels of various shapes, solid octagon and cruciform and hollow hexagon and round rock drill steels under the Bulldog brand.


8
9
APR. 1915
BURGETTSTOWN
PA.
LANGELOTH
Located 2 Miles S.W. of Burgettstown, P.O.
AMERICAN ZINC & CHEMICAL CO.
PROPOSED FURNACE BUILDINGS
No. 3 FURNACE BLDG. NORTH
No. 2 FURNACE BLDG. NORTH
No. 1 FURNACE BLDG. NORTH
No. 1 FURNACE BLDG. SOUTH
IRON BLDGS. EXCEPT FOR BRICK FLOOR
WOODEN ROOF SHEATHING
STEEL TRESTLE
CONCRETE RETAINING WALL
MIXER HO.
COAL ELEVATOR
POWER HO.
WATER TOWER
ERECTION STARTED 1913
MACHINE SHOP
WOOD WORKING SHOP
TIN SHOP
PROPOSED SPELTER BLDG.
PROPOSED SUPPLY HO.
AMERICAN ZINC & CHEMICAL CO.
OFF.
KILN BUILDING No. 1
KILN BUILDING No. 2
TOWER BLDG.
ACID TEST RM.
FIRST UNIT
ACID CHAMBER BLDG.
SUPPLY HO.
PROPOSED SECOND UNIT CONSTRUCTION IDENTICAL WITH FIRST UNIT
Scale of Feet
9
9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APR. 1915
BURGETTSTOWN
PA.
LANGELOTH
AMERICAN ZINC, LEAD & SMELTING CO., DWELLINGS
Located ½ Mile S.W. of Plant & 2¼
Miles S. of Burgettstown P.O.
SCALE 100 FT. TO AN INCH
PARK
PARK ROW
E. 6TH AV.
W. 6TH AV.
E. 5TH AV.
W. 5TH AV.
W. 4TH AV.
E. 4TH AV.
W. 3RD AV.
E. 3RD AV.
W. 2ND AV.
E. 2ND AV.
MERIDIAN
CENTER
ORCHARD
1A
2A
3A
4A
5A
6A
7A
8A
9A
10A
11A
12A
13A
AMERICAN ZINC & CHEMICAL CO.
For Report see Sheet #8
SCALE 50 FT. TO AN INCH
POTTERY BUILDING
CLAY ROOM
AMERICAN ZINC & CHEMICAL CO.
MINE SHAFT & BUILDINGS
For Report see Sheet #8
SCALE 50 FT. TO AN INCH
IRON & FRAME INCLINE TO MINE
S.W. PIPE
P.C.C. & St. L. RY.
IRON ACID TANKS
AMERICAN ZINC & CHEMICAL CO.
For Report see Sheet #8
SCALE 50 FT. TO AN INCH
Scale of Feet

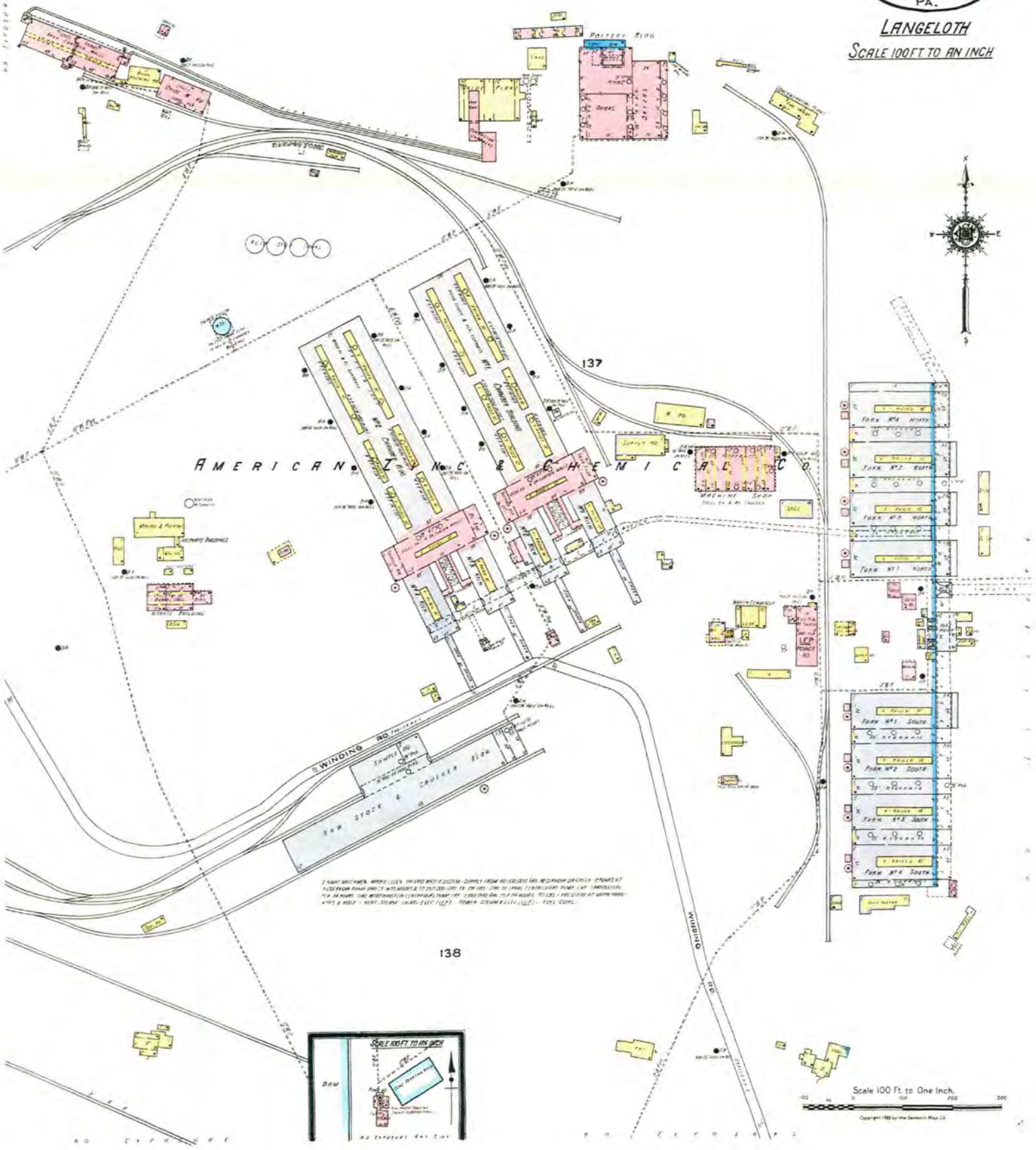
10

10

JAN. 1925
BURGETTSTOWN
PA.

LANGELOTH

SCALE 100 FT. TO AN INCH




JAN. 1925
BURGETTSTOWN
PA.
11
11
142
HAMMOND AV.
SLOVAN
145
140
141
JOSEPHINE
Burgetts Branch of Raccoon Creek
RAILROAD
139
AMERICAN ZINC & CHEMICAL CO
LANGELOTH MINE
CHEMICAL
CHARLES
CHARLES PL.
STATE RD.
BAIRD AV.
12
147
RYANNE CT.
144
143
BEACH CT.
HUDSON AV.
149
12 HIGH
158
155
CLARK
STATE RD.
159
Burgetts Branch of Raccoon Creek
Scale of Feet
12